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| 1 Cor 1:18-25Matt 28:19-20 | He took your Place | Pinelands – 9am – 07/05/2023Thornton – 10:30am – 07/05/2023 (confirmation) |

One day, a man went to visit a church.

He arrived early, *parked his car*, and got out.

 Another car pulled up near him, and the driver told him,

 *"I always park there. You took my place!"*

The visitor, being early, went and sat on a bench, waiting for the service to start.

A young lady from the church approached him and stated,

*"That's my seat! You took my place!"*

The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, *but said
nothing.* The service was about to start so, the visitor went into Church and sat down.

Another member walked up to him and said,

*"That's where I always sit. You took my place!"*

The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment,

but *still said nothing*.

**Later**, as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell

among them, the visitor stood, and his appearance began to

change.

**Horrible scars became visible on his hands**

**and on his sandaled feet.**

Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out,

*"What happened to you?"*

***The visitor looked at him and replied****,*

***"I took your place."***

**AND…** that is the ***Simplicity of the Gospel…***

 You might want **Miracles…** like the ***Jews***

You might want… some indisputable evidence

 Practical examples of Jesus

 Tangible ‘Hold-onto’ proof

 BUT… for every example, every miracle…

 There will always be some other

 Kind of explanation.

You might want **some wise**

 **Argument or debate…** like the ***Greeks***

 You might want… some clever argument

 Some documented evidence

 An answer to every question

 BUT… For every Sermon, Paper, Thesis

 There will always be a counter Arguement

**BUT…** This is the Message of the Gospel…

 **IN CHRIST CRUCIFIED…**

 **HE TOOK OUR PLACE.**

 **IN CHRIST CRUCIFIED…**

 **HE TOOK YOUR PLACE.**

We are all aware of **people’s testimony…**

They have committed their lives **to Jesus…**

* to serve Him *through* the Church
* to give expression to their faith *as they live life*

*That is their commitment* **BUT** *what is yours?…*

The challenge is…

 **Do we commit ourselves to…**

 - living our faith in today’s world

 - God’s Church

 - Jesus

**Do we accept that *Jesus* took our place.**

**A preacher** once asked an actor why he had such large

 audiences and he, the preacher, had only…

a small audience at church.

The actor replied*:* ***"I act as if I believe in what I say,***

 ***while you preach as if you did not believe***

 ***what you preached."*** (Parables: VOL4#10.92)

The ***CROSS…*** is all about ***LIFESTYLE***

Our ***FAITH…*** is all about ***LIFESTYLE***

 ***It calls us to :-*** - Live in a special way

 - Act and Respond in a loving way

 **- A PARTICULAR LIFESTYLE**

**Matthews** Gospel is full of the word **"GO"**

 Go and be reconciled (5:24)

 Go the extra mile (5:41)

 Go and pray (6:6)

 Go and learn about the scriptures (9:13)

 Go to those who are lost (10:6)

 Go and preach the gospel (10:7)

 Go and sort out your relationships (18:15)

 Go and give to the poor (19:21)

 Go and visit the sick,

 visit those in prison,

 Feed the hungry. (25)

 Go and make disciples and teach them (28:19)

THERE ARE THINGS WE NEED **TO DO**

 **We need to…**

***BELIEVE IT - AND - LIVE IT***

Christianity ***IS NOT ONLY*** a life it is a**… A LIFESTYLE**

**St Ignatius** would say...

 Our lifestyle is a **life of PRAY...**

 He said,

  ***"Pray as if everything depends on GOD,***

 ***and work as if everything depends on YOU."***

***Jesus took your place… !!!***

***Jesus took our place… !!!***

We **ALL** need to…

***LIVE A CROSS LIFESTYLE.***

**1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

**Christ the Power and the Wisdom of God**

For the message about Christ's death on the cross is nonsense to those who are being lost; but for us who are being saved it is God's power. The scripture says,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise

 and set aside the understanding of the scholars.”

So then, where does that leave the wise? or the scholars? or the skillful debaters of this world? God has shown that this world's wisdom is foolishness!

For God in his wisdom made it impossible for people to know him by means of their own wisdom. Instead, by means of the so-called “foolish” message we preach, God decided to save those who believe. Jews want miracles for proof, and Greeks look for wisdom. As for us, we proclaim the crucified Christ, a message that is offensive to the Jews and nonsense to the Gentiles; but for those whom God has called, both Jews and Gentiles, this message is Christ, who is the power of God and the wisdom of God. For what seems to be God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and what seems to be God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

**Matthew 28:19-20**

Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always,