**EASTER AT CALVARY DRIVE-IN**

**THE HU$TLE IS OVER**

**Part 6 of 6**

**We’re Kings…Let’s Talk Like It (Cont’d)**

**Ecclesiastes 8:4**

What’s up fam! HAPPY EASTER! Welcome to Easter at Calvary Drive-In.

Who would have ever imagined we would be sitting in our cars worshipping together on Easter? If you had told me last Easter or even 6 months ago or even 1 month ago that this is would be our reality, I would’ve never believed you. But today, regardless of if we are sitting in a car or sitting on a couch…it’s a party! You may be wondering why I’m calling it a party. In our current situation, many may find it difficult to find much to celebrate. But I disagree!

There isn’t a more celebratory day recorded in human history than Jesus’ resurrection morning!

* That was the day we became completely free from the enemy’s domain.
* That was the day Satan lost his grip on us.
* That was the day we became eternal citizens of heaven with all its privileges.
* That was the day God legally adopted us as his sons and daughters.
* That was the day we could stand before God through faith in what Jesus had done and approach God boldly without any sense of guilt, fear, or condemnation.
* That was the day of our redemption.
* That was the day we were given authority and power to rule as kings.

Maybe you’re here this Easter Sunday and you’re “battle weary.” Maybe you’re tired of fighting to gain victory over issues in your life. Maybe you’re worn out from walking in fear and unbelief. Maybe you’re burned out on do-it-yourself living.

Good news!!!

Jesus overcame all the odds stacked against him!

He came out of the grave and took hell captive.

Listen to the tone of His voice in **Revelation 1:18, “I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for every and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”**

At Calvary Church we don’t just party once a year on Easter Sunday! We party every day!!!

* We party because Jesus is the victor!
* We party because Jesus is the triumphant King of kings.
* We party because Jesus is the author and the finisher…the fountainhead and conclusion of faith.
* We party because Jesus is alpha and omega, the beginning, and the end.
* We used to party to FORGET. But now we party to REMEMBER that Jesus did it all…and He did it all for us.
* We party because He lives…and because he lives, we can face today and tomorrow! So, I’ll say it again…HAPPY EASTER! HONK IF YOU BELIEVE IT! ☺

Please grab your Bible and turn to Ecclesiastes 8. And as you’re turning there, I’ll remind you that we’re in the 7th week—the final week—of our teaching series “THE HU$TLE IS OVER.” If you missed any of this series, check it out at calvarychurch.cc or on the Calvary app. Quick review…

* Week #1 “He Owns It…We Use It!”
* Week #2 “He’s Faithful…(so) Don’t Worry!”
* Week #3 “He’s King…And He’s Worthy!”
* Week #4 “We’re New…Let’s Live Like It!”
* Week #5 + 6 “We’re Kings…(so) Let’s Talk Like It!”

OK…our theme verse. **Ecclesiastes 8:4: “The word of a king is authoritative and powerful.”**

Believe it or not, God has a GOOD plan for your life. He had a dream and wrapped your body around it. He sent you here, to earth, on assignment. He has something for you to do for him. You’re exactly what He needs, and you’re perfectly suited for the task. You aren’t a mistake. Your mission isn’t impossible—it’s the plan and will of God for your life. It’s your destiny…and it’s good.

God doesn't want you to be HUSTLED by FEAR or let it hold you back from your destiny. His will is for you to walk forward in authority and power as a KING, confident in His love, trusting Him to take care of you all along the way.

You also have an enemy, Satan, who will do everything he can to stop you from walking in God's GOOD plan. Anytime you’re making progress and moving forward in God's will and plan for your life, the devil will try to come against you with FEAR to drive you backwards. He lies to you because he doesn’t want you to know WHO YOU TRULY ARE. He doesn’t want you to know YOUR TRUE IDENTITY—you’re a king, not a beggar! You walk in authority and power, not in lack and longing. You’re the head and not the tail. Above and not beneath. You’re blessed, not cursed.

One of the enemy's greatest tactics is to bring FEAR and try to prevent you from making progress. You block your destiny when you allow your fear to grow bigger than your faith. He wants you to FEAR your current circumstances. He wants you to FEAR what other people think. He wants you to FOCUS on the "what ifs.”

* What if…I fail?
* What if…I make a fool of myself?
* What if…I didn't hear from God?
* What if…others disapprove?
* What if…my reputation suffers?
* What if…I get fired?
* What if…I go broke?
* What if…my stimulus check is delayed?
* What if…shelter-in-place continues another month?
* What if…I get sick…and die?

And on and on.

All of us will periodically come to these crossroads in our lives—places where we must move forward DESPITE OUR FEARS. Because if we wait for the feelings of fear to subside, we’ll NEVER step out. We won’t overcome in life; life will overcome us.

However, (and this is a WORD for these times) if we’ll trust God, step by step, we can learn to face our fears and enjoy new levels of freedom. We can mature in our understanding of the power we’ve been given in Christ and learn how to wield it every day. We can grow in God’s grace.

Remember this truth: You can’t always control the feeling of fear, but you can keep it from controlling you.

During life's moments when there are NO answers—or when unexpected changes occur (and we’re in moments like this right NOW)—Kim and I are learning to NOT live by our feelings. Instead, with God's help, we’re learning to face FEAR head-on…even when we’re “shaking in our boots.”

When fear strikes, many times, our first inclination is to run away and go back. But that's when God’s saying, "FEAR NOT! Don't stop now! Keep moving forward as kings…in authority and power!"

2 Timothy 1:7 says “God has not given us a spirit of fear…” The Living Bible says it like this, “For the Holy Spirit, God’s gift, does not want you to be afraid.” You don’t have to be afraid. The Lord has defeated the enemy through his death and his resurrection. Now, with the Lord in your heart and the Holy Spirit guiding you, step by step, your future is bright. You’re righteous royalty and you reign in life as a KING!

Last week we looked at each part of our confession. It’s powerful! **“I am a king and my words have power; so, I will speak them.”** Say that with me!

Let’s do a quick review of these three things: #1) I am a king! #2) My words have power! And #3) I will speak! I also want to remind you of the authority and power that the resurrected Christ has made available to you!

1. **I am a king!**
2. **My words have power!**
3. **I will speak!**

* Mark 11:22-24 says, “Have faith in God,” Jesus answered.  “I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”
* Zechariah 4:7 "‘Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of “Grace, grace to it!”’

**\*\*\*YOU HAVE CHRIST’S AUTHORITY (Matthew 16:19)!**

**\*\*\*YOU HAVE CHRIST’S POWER (Ephesians 1:19-21)!**

**Because of Jesus, you have authority and power over Satan.**

* Luke 10:18-20 says, “He replied, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

**Because of Jesus, you have authority and power over sin.**

* Romans 6:14 “Sin shall not have dominion over you for you are not under law but under grace.”

**Because of Jesus, you have authority and power over every situation.**

* 1 John 5:4-5 “For everyone born of God overcomes the world…”
* “…this is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”
* Isaiah 54:17 “But no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper…”
* “…and every tongue that shall rise against you in judgment you shall show to be in the wrong. This [peace, righteousness, security, triumph over opposition] is the HERITAGE of the servants of the Lord.”