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# Rebuilding After The Cross ("I've Got Next")

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## Rebuilding The Work

Pastor Wil Nichols

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***Sermon: Rebuilding The Work: Rebuilding After The Cross (“I’ve Got Next”)***

***Lesson Text***

Luke 24:1–7 (KJV)<sup>1</sup> Now upon the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain *others* with them. <sup>2</sup> And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. <sup>3</sup> And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: <sup>5</sup> And as they were afraid, and bowed down *their* faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

Philippians 2:5–11 (KJV)<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: <sup>7</sup> But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: <sup>8</sup> And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. <sup>9</sup> Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: <sup>10</sup> That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; <sup>11</sup> And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Matthew 16:24–27 (KJV)<sup>24</sup> Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.** <sup>25</sup> **For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.** <sup>26</sup> **For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?** <sup>27</sup> **For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.**

***Introduction***

2023 is the year of Rebuilding, Reviving, and Restoring. And for the first quarter of this year, we’ve looked at how God revives us from dead bones, and rebuilds us for total destruction. Later this year, we will look at complete restoration of everything stolen from us.

But when I sought the Lord on what He would have me to share with you on this Easter Sunday, He kept me right in our series on Rebuilding; namely how to rebuild after the cross.

Normally when we minister an Easter Sunday Message, we mostly preach about the experience leading up to the cross: the betrayal, the denial, the silence, the suffering, and death, and finally the resurrection.

But today I want to focus on what comes next. What happens after the cross?

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- *In antiquity (ancient history), crucifixion was considered one of the most brutal and shameful modes of death. The Phoenicians introduced it to Rome in the 3rd century BC. It was virtually never used in pre-Hellenic Greece. The Romans perfected crucifixion for 500 years until it was abolished by Constantine I in the 4th century AD.*
- *Crucifixion in Roman times was applied mostly to slaves, disgraced soldiers, Christians and foreigners. Death, usually occurs between 6 hours to 4 days, and was caused after the effects of scourging and maiming, hemorrhage and dehydration causing hypovolemic shock and pain, but the most important factor was progressive asphyxia caused by impairment of respiratory movement. Death was probably commonly precipitated by cardiac arrest, severe pain, body blows and breaking of the large bones.*
- *The attending Roman guards could only leave the site after the victim had died and were known to precipitate death by means of deliberate fracturing of the tibia and/or fibula, spear stab wounds into the heart, sharp blows to the front of the chest, or a smoking fire built at the foot of the cross to asphyxiate the victim.*

At the cross, everything had died. Peter had denied Christ, all the disciples had scattered, and the very future of the church was at a crisis. And Jesus has commanded us to take up our cross.

Matthew 16: <sup>24</sup> Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**

The issue is not taking up our cross, it’s getting stuck at the cross. And when we get stuck at the cross, we get stuck in crisis mode, we get stuck at defeat, death, and destruction.

But when we take up our cross and follow Christ, we don’t just follow Him to the cross (the brutality and humiliation), we must also follow Him off the cross to what comes next.

Years ago, I used to play pick-up basketball at local parks. Now when my team would lose, instead of wallowing in the depression of the loss, the first thing I’d say was “I’ve Got Next.”

Bill Clinton, when he first lost the election for Governor, was out the next day smiling, shaking hands, and thanking people. Some people said he doesn’t even know that he lost. But what he was doing was starting the campaign for his next election; “I Got Next!”

When we follow Christ to the Cross, instead of living in the pain and shame of the loss, we must learn to immediately say, “I’ve Got Next!” Why? Because we felt that in the next game, we were going to win.

Although we suffer pain and humiliation at the cross, we can rejoice that what comes next is a rebuild that gives us the victory!

1 Corinthians 15: <sup>57</sup> But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

***Series and Sermon: Rebuilding The Work: Rebuilding After The Cross (“I’ve Got Next”)***

***“Rebuilding Your Life, Rebuilding Your Glory, and Rebuilding Your Reward”***

## ***I. Rebuilding Your Life (Your Next Abundance)***

Luke 24: <sup>5</sup> And as they were afraid, and bowed down *their* faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

After you have been to the “Cross,” the first thing we must rebuild is our life.

Now what most people expect to see after the Cross is our demise: the final resting place, the final results of our termination, expiration, failure, end, or death.

John 10: <sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:**

The quote, “The reports of my demise have been greatly exaggerated!” attributed to Mark Twain, has grown to mean that which has appeared to be dead and hopeless still has life.

When people leave us at the cross, they assume that we stay at the cross, we stay broken, we stay bruised, we stay betrayed, we stay persecuted, we stay dead.

Ezekiel 16: <sup>6</sup> And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee *when thou wast* in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee *when thou wast* in thy blood, Live.

Psalms 118: <sup>17</sup> I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

Although the purpose of the cross was to steal, kill, and destroy; what comes next is not just life, but abundant life!

John 10: <sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

We receive life the moment we accept Jesus as our Savior. But after we are saved, however, we find that there are various degrees of life called abundant life.

Too many people are trying to avoid the cross to save their lives, but after the cross there is abundant life.

Matthew 16: <sup>25</sup> **For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.**

Matthew 19:29 (KJV)<sup>29</sup> And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

After the Cross comes Abundant Life, the Abundance of Joy that gives us strength, Abundance of Love that covers a multitude of sins, Abundance of peace that surpasses all understanding, the Abundance of Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, and Temperance.

“I’ve Got Next!”

## ***II. Rebuilding Your Name (Your Next Glory)***

Philippians 2:<sup>8</sup> And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

The next thing that comes after the Cross is the rebuilding of our name, which is God’s Glory.

As we stated earlier, the cross is not just brutal, but it is also shameful. It is designed to denigrate, humiliate, vilify, disparage, and slander one’s name.

In legal terms it’s called “Defamation of Character;” a catch-all term for hurting or defaming someone's reputation. When written it’s called “libel,” and when spoken, it’s called “slander.”

The humiliation and defamation that comes from the Cross is not just about defaming our name, but about destroying everything we represent, that we’re called to, and that we’re connected to!

The Cross kills our name, steals our purpose, and destroys our destiny; and so after the Cross, we must rebuild them.

After the Cross it’s not what people call you, it’s what God Calls you!

Philippians 2: <sup>9</sup> Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: <sup>10</sup> That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; <sup>11</sup> And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

And when we get our name back, we get the Glory behind the name next!

Romans 8: <sup>17</sup> And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. <sup>18</sup> For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

“I’ve Got Next!”

### ***III. Rebuilding Your Victory (Your Next Reward)***

Matthew 16: <sup>24</sup> Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**

After the Cross, I Got Next:

- After the Cross, we rebuild our life and get Abundance Next!
- After the Cross, we rebuild our name and get Glory Next!
- After the Cross, we rebuild our victory and get Reward Next!

The Cross represents failure, represents death, and represents loss. But After the Cross we rebuild our Victory.

Matthew 16: <sup>25</sup> **For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.**

1 Corinthians 15: <sup>57</sup> But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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After the Cross, we move from losing to winning. “It’s My Winning Season!”

It’s our season to win against the enemy: Luke 10: <sup>19</sup> Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

It’s our season to win against weapons: Isaiah 54: <sup>17</sup> No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; ...

It’s our season to win against death: 1 Corinthians 15: <sup>55</sup> O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?

It’s our season to win prosperity: 3 John <sup>2</sup> Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

And when we rebuild our Victory, we receive our Reward:

- Matthew 16: <sup>27</sup> For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.
- Revelation 22: <sup>12</sup> And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

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## Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Rebuilding After The Cross (“I’ve Got Next”))

### Lesson Text

- Luke 24:1–7, Philippians 2:5–11, Matthew 16:24–27

### Sermon Outline (Notes)

**I. *Rebuilding Your Life (Your Next Abundance)***

**II. *Rebuilding Your Name (Your Next Glory)***

**III. *Rebuilding Your Victory (Your Next Reward)***

### Questions (What was your takeaway from Sunday’s Sermon?)

#### **I. Getting to Know “Me”**

1. If you had a superhero alter ego, what would his/her name be?
2. Name one characteristic of your personality that you know you picked up from a parent or guardian.

#### **II. Into the Bible**

1. Read Hebrews 7:23-28 in the New Living Translation. These verses compare the high priests of the Old Testament with the ultimate high priest, Jesus, declaring the priesthood of Jesus to be better. List all of the ways that Jesus is a better priest.
2. Genesis 32:27-28. After a nightlong struggle, Jacob’s name is changed to Israel. a) Considering the meaning of the name Jacob, why might he have been a little ashamed to tell his name when asked? b) What is the significance of his new name and of the timing of the change?

#### **III. Life Application**

1. What are some things that can prevent you from looking forward to your “Next?” How can you overcome these things?
2. Share practical steps you will apply to win prosperity in this season of your life.