

Message Extras

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

Message Extras accompany the [weekly message](#).

Before I share the message extras on the BEST DAY EVER, the day Jesus rose from the dead, I would like to pause and share with you about the worst day ever for someone very dear to me. I have a very close friend I work with whose daughter, Amanda, passed away three weeks ago at the age of 38. She left behind her husband, her two children, her mother, her sister, her grandmother, and many others who love her very much. The day she passed away was the worst day ever for many people.

As I write this, tomorrow is Good Friday, and I had a conversation today with my friend. She told me her mother was in the hospital. As I started to say, "I'm so sorry..." my friend interrupted me and said, "Steve, it's ok. I'm not afraid of the day my mom dies anymore. I know when she dies, she will see Amanda in heaven." We went on to have a conversation about the many lives that Amanda touched for good in the short time she had on earth. And I said to her, "You know, I bet you there are many people who will look for Amanda when they get to heaven to thank her for the impact she had on their lives."

This conversation I had with my friend is possible because of the BEST DAY EVER in human history. When God raised Jesus from the dead, the greatest miracle ever happened, death itself was defeated! And everyone who puts their faith in Lord Jesus, even though they die, will live forever with Him. It is written in the book of First Corinthians:

When our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled:

*"Death is swallowed up in victory.
O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?"*

For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless. (1 Corinthians 15:54-58)

It seems with every news cycle, with too many social media posts, and in too many conversations, we read and hear about death and pain and suffering. Even the magic of Disney World is losing its luster. Some days, you just want to look to heaven and ask God, "When will you step in?"

He already has! Paul writes to the Corinthians and to us, "thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ!" Even amid everything we see and hear around us, we have victory over sin and death through the Lord Jesus Christ because of the BEST DAY EVER! And even though the resurrection of Jesus was a single event in human history, that single event brought a paradigm shift to every person who has ever put their faith in Jesus and who will put their faith in Jesus. The BEST DAY EVER has made it possible for all of us to receive the truth as little Camryn did...

HE IS ALIVE! JESUS IS ALIVE!

Yes, because of the BEST DAY EVER, Jesus Lives! He lives to forgive you. He lives to heal you. He lives to give you hope. He lives to give your life meaning. He lives to encourage you. If your heart is broken, He lives to be near you in your pain. He lives to give you new life in and through Himself. If you will put your faith in Him, He lives so that you will live forever with Him.

If you have not yet considered the empty grave as John did and believed in the Lord Jesus and His resurrection... What are you waiting for? Today is your day of salvation. Believe in the Lord Jesus. It will be your Best Day Ever! That is until you meet Him face to face and live with Him forever.

- What painful circumstances are you or someone close to you going through right now?
- How does the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, the BEST DAY EVER, change your thinking about these painful circumstances or about the pain and suffering in the world today?
- Jesus is alive! He Lives! Paul responded to this truth by writing: *"So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless."*
 - What changes do you need to make in your life today to be strong and immovable?
 - What good things in your life do you need to keep doing to be strong and immovable?
 - What work does the Lord have for you to do with enthusiasm?

