

I got duped

Is there anything that makes you feel more sour on the inside than knowing that you were fooled. I'm not talking in a good way, like when a magician pulls a card out from somewhere you didn't see. I'm talking about when a salesman convinces you of something and then you find out it isn't true. That's what happened to me. I got duped. (And it was all my own fault).

So last night (as of when I am writing this) was March 16 and I convinced Noah and Meredith to go to a movie with me after church. Noah didn't have school the next day so it would be really great to go watch the new The Last Supper movie. I have enjoyed watching The Chosen even if some parts of it take some liberties with the Bible and I had heard that they were coming out with episodes about holy week. I had even gotten a few emails about their Easter plans for showing the episodes at the theater.

I hadn't really paid attention to when those shows were coming out, but I was excited when I saw The Last Supper pop up at Cinemark. So we went to watch the show and sat through too many previews (like even more than a regular movie) but I was cool with that, I had my popcorn and was ready to watch the show.

When the opening credits started I realized my mistake. You know those opening studio things that slide up and tell you who made the film. None of them were the same fish logo from The Chosen people. I pulled out my phone (there was only one other couple in the theater and they were sitting lower than us) and looked it up and sure enough The Chosen version of the holy week was still weeks away. So instead of watching the show I wanted to watch, I was watching the Temu version of it.

That may be a little harsh. The movie was still good, but it wasn't what I was looking for. It wasn't the Jesus that I knew. I had been duped.

So why do I tell you this other than to mock my own mistakes? Well because I think it is very easy for us to end up giving our time, attention, and resources to the wrong Jesus. It is very easy for us if we aren't careful to construct a Jesus that we like, one that isn't who he really is, but rather who we want him to be. Or if we aren't careful we can end up following a Jesus that someone else created other than who He really is.

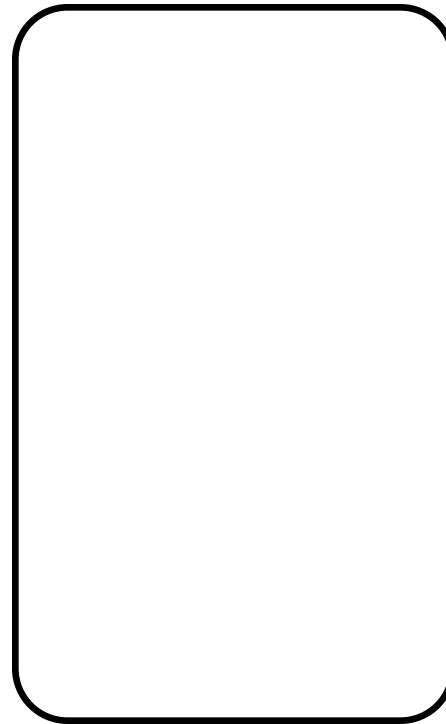
So then how do we guard against that? How do we make sure that the Jesus that we are following is the Jesus of the Bible?

1. Study the gospels. I know that you know the Bible stories. I know that you have probably heard them often, but we have to keep going back to the gospels and keep learning about Jesus.

2. Don't shape Jesus to be like you. We all want to make Jesus more like us. We want Him to be upset with what we are upset with and forgiven for where we struggle. We want Him to see the world like we see the world and fight the fights that we want to fight. But the problem is that isn't how we are to come to Jesus. We don't want to shape Him to be like us. We want to shape us to be like Him.

3. Live out the hard stuff. In some ways being a Jesus follower in America is pretty easy. Much of how He calls us to live is how society wants us to live. But if we are going to live like Jesus, the real Jesus and not just the one that we created, then we have to push forward and live like Him in the hard stuff too.

Shane



Weekly Activities

SUNDAY

Sunday School - 9:30 am
Worship - 8:15 am & 10:45 am
Evening Worship - 6:00 pm
Children's Bible Study - 6:00 pm
Youth Bible Study - 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Prayer Service - 6:30 pm
Youth Bible Study - 6:30 pm
Children's Bible Study - 6:30 pm



COOKIE BRIGADE

April 13
Beth Simmons

April 27
Kelly Dixon



EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 19 | 10:30 AM

All kids through 5th grade are invited to join us. Be sure and invite your friends!

Phone: 270.534.1900
www.friendshipnet.org
www.facebook.com/friendshipnet
Dr. Jason Browning, Pastor
Rev. Shane Yancey,
Minister to Students & Children
Rev. Chad Davidson,
Minister of Music & Worship

Budget Receipts

Required to Date: \$ 137,772
Received to Date: \$ 118,821

Nursery Volunteers

April 6

8:15 am — Billie Stuber
10:45 am — Spencer & Melissa Hawkins (BB)
Miranda Scott (T)

April 13

8:15 am — Tori Ramsdell
10:45 am — Vicky Fox/Rachel Martin (BB)

April 20

8:15 am — Amanda Triplett
10:45 am — Gene & Deborah Reaney (BB)
Kathy Goodman & Kathy Baucum (T)

April 27

8:15 am — Masami Smith
10:45 am — Pam Samuels & Vickie Turley (BB)
Laura Hughes & Meredith Yancey (T)

BB - Bed Babies C201
T - Toddlers C202



FRIENDSHIP NEWSLETTER

Friendship Baptist Church
146 S. Friendship Rd.
Paducah KY 42003

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APRIL 2025

Number 4

HE LIVES!

Celebrate the Resurrection with us!

Good Friday | April 18 | 7:00 pm

Resurrection Sunday | April 20

Worship | 8:15 am & 10:45 am

Breakfast in KidZone | 9:00 am

Sunday School | 9:30 am

No Evening Activities at Friendship



**“... if Christ has not been raised,
your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.”
(1 Corinthians 15:17)**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event in the history of the world. It is what gives hope to millions of Christ-followers around the world. What is the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Why is Jesus' resurrection so important?

The resurrection of Jesus means Christ-followers are justified before God. In Romans 4:25, Paul writes: *“He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”* Justification means to “be put right with.” Because of our sin, we are cut off from a right relationship with God. Without someone stepping in to correct this situation, we cannot have the relationship with God that He intended. In the death of Jesus on the cross, God put our punishment on Christ so that we could be justified before Him. The resurrection of Jesus confirms that God accepted Christ's sacrifice for sin on the cross and gives us access to a right relationship with Him.

The resurrection of Jesus shows Jesus defeated death. Death is our greatest enemy and is the punishment for our sin. The mortality rate is and will always be 100%. No amount of effort, medical technology, power, or riches can rescue us from the clutches of death. But Christ rose from the dead because death could no longer hold Him. As a result, we no longer need to fear death because Christ has triumphed over it.

The resurrection of Jesus means Christ-followers are united with Christ. When we believe in Christ, we are united to Him in faith. Union with Christ means that when God looks at us, He does not see our unrighteousness, but He sees the righteousness of Christ. It means that we have died with Him and we will also live with Him. This union is made possible by the resurrection of Christ. Similar to when a couple is united in marriage and one spouse's belongings become the shared possession of their new spouse, believers receive the righteousness of Christ because of their union with Him. As a result, we are now able to walk in newness of life because we are bound to Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.

The resurrection of Jesus gives Christ-followers a living hope. In 1 Peter 1:3-4, the apostle writes, *“According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...”* Being forgiven of sin and justified before God gives us incredible hope. We are no longer enemies of God bound for hell, but we are His children blessed with an eternal inheritance that can never be taken away.

I believe the words of Clarence Hall sum up the significance of the resurrection. He said: *“The resurrection of Jesus changes the face of death for all His people. Death is no longer a prison, but a passage into God's presence. The resurrection says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there. You can nail truth to a cross and shut it up in a tomb, but it will rise!”*

God is good! All the time!

Jason



- 1 10:30 a.m. — JOY Club
6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 3
- 2 5:00 p.m. — Family Night Supper
5:45 p.m. — Missions Ministry Team Mtg.
7:30 p.m. — Deacons
- 8 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 4
- 9 5:30 p.m. — Facility Options Assessment Team Mtg.
- 15 10:30 a.m. — Women on Mission
6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 1
- 16 5:30 p.m. — Finance Team Mtg.
6:30 p.m. — Business Mtg.
- 18 7:00 p.m. — Good Friday Worship
- 19 10:30 a.m. — Children's Egg Hunt
- 20 Resurrection Sunday
9:00 a.m. — Breakfast in Kidzone
No Evening Activities
- 22 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 2
- 23 5:30 p.m. — Facility Options Assessment Team Mtg.
- 26 9:00 a.m. — Men's Golf Scramble (Silos)
- 27 Labor For Your Neighbor
No Evening Activities
- 29 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 3

Tuesdays @ 6:30 a.m. — Men's Prayer Group
Thursdays @ 9:30 a.m. — Ladies Morning Bible Study
Thursdays @ 6:00 p.m. — Ladies Evening Bible Study
Saturdays @ 8:00 a.m. — Mighty Men



Family Night Supper April 2 at 5:00 p.m. The menu is: BBQ Chicken Breasts, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls and Dessert. Sign up in the worship center or call the church office by noon on April 1 if you plan to attend.



The JOY Club will go to Sirloin Stockade in Murray on Tuesday, April 1. Meet at the church at 10:30 a.m. to ride the bus.



Bro. Jason & the Friendship Family express Christian love & sympathy to Michelle Martin & family in the death of her father, Tony Martin.



Help us spread the Good News to children around the world by participating in Operation Christmas Child year-round. Item for APRIL is: **SMALL CARS & SMALL DOLLS**. There is a box in the KidZone for your donations.

A reflection on one of the most beautiful hymns for Good Friday in the Western Christian tradition, the African-American spiritual, *“Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?”*

We do not know who composed the hymn *“Were You There”*, but we do know that it was most likely composed by an African-American on a southern plantation during the times of slavery. The hymn was first published in a collection called *Old Plantation Hymns* in 1899, compiled by the Reverend William Eleazar Barton (1861-1930). Barton was a Congregationalist minister from Illinois who graduated from Berea College in Kentucky and Oberlin Theological Seminary, where he received his divinity degree in 1890. He then served as a pastor in Tennessee, Ohio, Massachusetts, and then again in his native Illinois until his retirement. After his retirement in 1924, he took a post as a lecturer at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he remained and also became the pastor of the Collegiate Congregational Church there. In addition to collecting and preserving a number of Southern folk hymns and spirituals, he was also a scholar and biographer of the life and work of President Abraham Lincoln.

This is pretty much all we know about the history of the hymn. I will add that an enslaved African-American in the antebellum South, which is the period from which we think this hymn dates, would have understood Christ on the Cross in a way we can't imagine today. The very fact that the composer of this hymn was a slave, to begin with, is sad to contemplate. The composer of this hymn endured daily hardships of constant labor, probably in the fields. The composer would have dealt with beatings, abuse (verbal, physical and some things unspeakable), not the best choices of food, likely no education, a one-room slave cabin with maybe not even a bed to sleep upon, and the constant fear of being separated from loved ones and family because either they themselves or family members could be sold to other masters and taken to other plantations or farms. Think upon Jesus Christ's sufferings during His Passion: His arrest, being bound like a criminal, being mocked and verbally abused, being scourged by the Roman soldiers. All of this would have been something that touched deeply the heart and spiritual understanding of the African-American who composed *“Were You There?”*. This hymn rose from being a hymn sung on plantations to becoming a standard of the Western Church, becoming popular first in Methodist and Baptist churches and then later becoming a staple of Good Friday liturgies in the Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic traditions. In a way, this is a victory for the unknown slave who composed the hymn, a special legacy.

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble..
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

Paraphrased from: <https://epiphanymusicministries.wordpress.com/2020/04/10/were-you-there-when-they-crucified-my-lord-history-of-the-hymn-and-a-meditation-with-excerpts-from-the-stations-of-the-cross/>

Under the Master's Baton,
Chad