

**Easter (sunrise) 2021**  
**Good Shepherd, Beaver Dam**  
**1 Corinthians 15:19-20**

If our hope in Christ applies only to this life, we are the most pitiful people of all. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

*Introduction*

- 1 Death strikes often 157,000,000/year
- 2 Since Adam and Eve fell into sin, human beings suffer troubles, get sick, have aches and pains; and die!
- 3 Fact of Life – human beings die
- 4 Although we will die, we don't have to worry about death
- 5 Why? Jesus Christ, the King of Life has risen!

*Sermonette*

- 1 It happened suddenly and unexpectedly – Fly Ndebele, December 10, 1969 (Wednesday)
- 2 Working in his garden near the Chunga River in Malawi
- 3 Ate dinner, cutting wood, pain in his chest, stiffness, hard to breathe – three days later he was dead
- 4 **A garden – a tree – a death!**
- 5 These remind us of the Garden of Eden where Adam and Eve lived in sinless perfection
- 6 Then there is the tree of knowledge of good and evil, the fruit of which Adam and Eve ate, disobeyed God, and fell into sin
- 7 Then there is death, physical and spiritual death, that came upon human beings
- 8 **A garden – a tree – a death**, they bring back bad memories
- 9 But thank God that there was another garden, another tree, and another death!
- 10 Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus waited patiently for the mob to arrest Him
- 11 Tree of the cross upon which Jesus was placed and where He paid for the sins of the world
- 12 Death, the death Jesus died so that all people might have forgiveness and salvation
- 13 **A garden – a tree – a death**
- 14 Today is Easter Sunday and Christians gather to sing praises

to the Lord who was in the Garden of Gethsemane, who hung upon the cross at Calvary, and who died for our sins and who is our living Savior.

- 15 We will die one day. But because of Jesus and what He did for us, we will live in heaven even if we die!
- 16 Fly Ndebele was a Christian. He knew about the garden, the tree and death.
- 17 Sometimes we take Jesus and what He did for us for granted. Perhaps this story will show you how important the work of Jesus really is. I call it, The Last Move. Painting of a chess match in progress. On one side was a young man – on the other side was Satan. It was a match for the man's soul. The young man was in trouble.
- 18 One day a chess champion looked at the picture and after some study said, "I'll make the young man's move." A chess board was set up exactly like it was in the painting. The chess champion saw a move made it, and won the match!
- 19 What if a chess champion had actually done that? What would the young man's reaction be? (thanks-never forget)
- 20 We have a Champion, His name is Jesus. Jesus paid for our sins, our rebellions, our failures so we would be with God and not the devil. But Jesus had to sacrifice Himself to make it possible. But on Easter Sunday, Jesus arose from the dead! We don't have a dead Champion; we have a living Savior.

*Conclusion*

- 21 Jesus is our unforgettable Savior.
- 22 Jesus lived a perfect life for us; died an innocent death for us; and arose from the dead so that we can be sure of life with God forever!
- 23 And now Jesus is preparing a place for us in heaven!
- 24 All this came about because of a garden – a tree – and a death. These remind us of our Savior and the joy of knowing that He has risen! He has risen indeed!

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