

Come Follow Me Podcast  
Elo Viz production  
Week 13  
Easter

I'd like to begin by sharing a personal story with you. The other day I was driving home in a snowstorm with my Dad and my son Holland. It wasn't terrible. The snow was barely sticking to the roads but it had accumulated a few inches on the grass. I was going about 65 right at the speed limit and we were doing fine. It was a long drive so my mind was wandering when all of a sudden I felt the back of the car start to fishtail. We had hit a patch of ice and I lost all control of the car. We turned sideways in the lane and it felt like we could roll over at any second. Our momentum pushed us into the oncoming lane and the first miracle happened, there were no cars coming in the opposite direction. At the edge of the road the car suddenly changed directions again and we were sliding down the road in the opposite direction back towards our lane. For a split second I saw a flash of us rolling over and over again. But another miracle we didn't roll over. Instead we were heading straight for a pole on the side of the road. I still had no control of the car, no brakes, no steering, nothing. It all happened so fast but I would guess we were still moving at around 50 miles an hour as we blew through the sign and straight over the edge of the road down a 20 foot ravine. My 2 wheel drive little car was not meant for off roading, especially in the snow. As we hit the bottom we were still moving and I had some control back so I kept the car moving and somehow my little car with bald tires climbed slowly out of the steep snowy ditch and back onto the road. We looked at each other in shock. What just happened? Was that real? How are we still alive? We were all shaking and wide eyed. It was one of those moments when your life flashes before your eyes. I knew enough about cars to realize that the odds of us coming out of that alive were slim to none. We should have died, the car should have rolled...twice, or best case been stuck down inside that snowy ravine in the middle of a storm. A few miles down the road, that's how long it took to get my wits about me. I pulled over and walked around the car and surprisingly, there was no damage. The pole that I swear we plowed through just disappeared. There was not even a scratch. We experienced miracle after miracle that night.

I tell you this story because this Easter we are celebrating the miracle of all miracles. The resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. By His own power, He allowed himself to be crucified, and on the third day raised Himself from the dead. No one had ever done that before. Sure during His ministry Jesus raised Lazareth from the dead, the ruler's daughter and even the widow's son. But these instances were different. Jesus brought them back to life and extended their mortal life, until they would once again die and return home to the spiritual world. But when Jesus resurrected, He put on immortality and would never die again. And He still lives, and He unlocked the gates of death for everyone of us so that we too can one day be resurrected and take upon us immortality. That is His power that is in us. Romans 8:11 says:

“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also **quicken** your **mortal** bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

I love that... The power of God is given to us that through Christ we can do all things. (Phillippians 4:13) Think about it. The ultimate power that God gave to Jesus has also been given to us. That can be an incredible realization if we believe in Him and His words.

Remember when Jesus was teaching his disciples and told them about the second comforter and He said that famous scripture: "I am the **way**, the **truth**, and the life: no man **cometh** unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6) In that same scene Jesus also said: "**For** the **prince** of this **world** cometh [talking about satan], and [has] nothing [over] me." (John 14:30)

And we can say the same thing. You may be going through some hard times right now, you may be facing a mountain of trials and struggles right in your way, but you have God's power in you and the enemy has nothing over you.

In second Kings we read of the Syrian army that was coming against the Israelites. But it seemed like every time the Syrians tried to attack them that the Israelites knew about it and were ready for them. So the captain figured that one of his men was a spy and was feeding them information. So he gathers his top men together to try and find out which one of them is a traitor. One of them spoke out in defense of their men and said: "None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that *is* in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in [secret]." (2 Kings 6:12)

So the King says: Go find him, I will take him out. The King's spies found where Elisha was staying, it was a little town called Dothan. Now, think about this. If you were the King of the Great Syrian empire and this old guy was causing you grief, What would you do? You would probably send a few of your good men to kill him. You wouldn't need much to take out one defenseless man. Not this guy, the King sent a great host it says. With horses and chariots, and they came by night and compassed the city about. (2 Kings 6:14)

The next morning when Elisha's servant awoke early and looked outside, he was terrified. He ran to Elisha and woke him up. Master, we are in trouble. There is a whole army outside waiting to kill us. What shall we do?

So Elisha prayed that the youngman's eyes would be open to see the mountain full of horses and Chariots of fire surrounding the Syrian army, massive warriors of light dressed and ready for battle in defense to protect and defend you. And he says to the youngman:

"Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them." (2 Kings 6:16) Elisha was not scared, he knew about God's power and faithfulness of God for His children.

I don't know what you're going through. You may be sick, or injured, you may be facing financial problems, you could have a wayward child that keeps you constantly worried, you may be in the grips of addiction in all its many forms. And you may look out and see what seems like the entire world is conspiring against you, that Satan has sent his armies to destroy you. But remember,

“Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them.” That the Angels of light are surrounding your enemies, out numbering your enemies with horses and chariots of fire.

Joel Osteen once shared a story of a missionary in Africa many many years ago that was traveling by horseback down a narrow winding path. It was a hot Sunday afternoon and he was heading to one of the small villages. As he approached a sharp curve in the path the horse stopped and refused to go any further. It sensed that there was something wrong around the corner of the curve. The man couldn't make the horse go so he got off and looked around the corner. Sure enough there was a huge snake about 10 feet long, very thick, curled up right in the middle of the path basking in the sun. It had its head hidden underneath a small flat stone. The man's heart was gripped with fear. He had been warned about how dangerous and poisonous the snakes were over there and didn't really know what to do. He didn't have a weapon and there was really no way around the path, there was brush and thick trees on each side. After about fifteen minutes he got his nerve up and decided to find the biggest rock he could possibly find, he was going to throw it on top of that flat stone and hopefully kill the snake. He found the biggest rock he could carry and moved toward the snake very cautiously, trembling with fear. In the back of his mind he was thinking: What if I miss, what if I just make him mad and bites me? Amid all the fear and trembling he hurls this massive rock at the snake as hard as he could. Much to his surprise the snake didn't move. He walked up a little closer and realized that the snake was already dead. Somebody that passed that way before him had crushed the snake's head and just left it lying there in the path.

The good news about the gospel is that Jesus Christ has already crushed Satan's head. He has already defeated our enemy and won the fight for your soul.

This Easter season might I leave you with this thought. After the final instructions to His disciples in the upper room, Jesus made the lonely walk to the garden of Gethsemane where He willingly suffered for every single act each one of us have done to offend God, every impure thought or feeling that will keep us from God. He took all that punishment upon Himself in order that you and I would have a way back to the Father. Then after the betrayal by Judas He was beaten and mocked after being unjustly judged and condemned by morally wicked men. The only perfect and pure life to ever live, the only man that spent His whole life teaching, forgiving, healing and loving was forced to carry His own cross to the top of Golgotha where the God of Love was mocked, they put a crown of thorns on His head, and they spit upon Him. Then they drove nails through His hands and feet. This Jesus that has all power: He could have called legions of Angels to come down and deliver Him from this humiliation and pain...but He didn't. He could have smitten them all dead in an instant and came down off the cross... but He didn't. The nails that pierced His hands, feet and wrists did not hold Him on the cross, Love held Him on the cross. He did it for you. While hanging on the cross the Earth He spoke into existence convulsed and trembled with a great earthquake. The sun that He created turned its back and refused to give light. It was dark in the middle of the day. When the soldiers that crucified Him saw these signs they said to one another: Surely this was the Son of God. When Jesus prayed His last prayer and gave up the Ghost the veil of the temple was ripped in two, right down the

middle from the top down to the bottom. Behind that veil was the holy of holies in the temple. The Holy of Holies was where the ark of the covenant was kept and it was where God would be. Only the high priest was allowed to enter just one time a year. When that veil was ripped it was not to let God out but to let us in. Now we can all come boldly to the throne of Grace. You don't need anybody to go to God for you. You don't need a pastor, a priest, a bishop or a Sunday school teacher, to go to God for you, you can go to God for yourself and because of Jesus, God wants to talk to you. It doesn't matter how religious you are or aren't. It doesn't matter how many mistakes you have made. It doesn't matter what you have done in the past or even what you are doing right now. His atonement took all your sins, every single one and He covered them with His blood.

They put His body in a tomb on Friday and they all thought it was over. I'm sure Satan and his angels were celebrating, thinking that they won. But Sunday morning came with a brilliant beams of light and the glorious announcement that He is back! Jesus took up His body with the strength of His own power and defeated the dragon, conquered death and walked out of the tomb never to return again. This Easter season He is inviting us to do the same. To live your life with the reality that Satan has no power over you. To master the thought that your adversary has already been conquered and the battle is already won. Stand up straight. Light the fire of Faith in your heart and stand by the Creator of the universe in His light and glory.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Ideas and quote from Joel Olsteen's Easter message:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vaoWdOSq10>