# Some of the accomplishments of the Lord Jesus in His death and resurrection

Mark 15:42-16:8 and Col. 1:19-22, 2:9-15

**Introduction**

I want to talk to you about the Cross. We are to glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus. We need to believe in victory if we are to experience it! It is not our victory, but Jesus' victory.

J.O. Fraser wrote a famous book entitled **'Prayer of Faith'**. He worked among the Lisu – a mountain tribal people in South West China. After seven years he had seen no results. He was in despair. His mother sent him a little article on the Prayer of Faith based on the victory of the Cross. He read this and took to heart the teaching on our **authority** in prayer. He ordered Satan's demons to leave. He prayed for 100 families. In the end he had thousands of families.

Authority is given to us both as a **promise** and as a **duty**. Satan has been very successful in his blinding tactics. All Biblical teaching is interrelated, but people often get confused between authority and the fullness of the Spirit and between authority and power.

You can think of a traffic crossing. The lights have failed and a policeman is there directing the traffic. He has no 'power' – i.e. force – to make the traffic go where it should. However it obeys him because he has 'authority' given to him by the state. They recognise this authority and obey.

Authority is delegated power. Its value depends on the force behind the user. The source of our authority/power is the triumph of the Cross and the Resurrection. I find it impossible to speak of this as I want to speak. I want to be more dramatic, more emphatic, more descriptive and more eloquent than I am capable of being!

The death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus is the greatest event in time. In his **History of Time** Stephen Hawkins says that 'the Big Bang' – the creation of all matter in the very first nano-seconds of time was the greatest event in our history. **But what Jesus accomplished in His death, resurrection and ascension was far greater!**

Most people accomplish whatever they are going to achieve in their lifetime. Jesus **did** accomplish much in His life, but He accomplished so much more in His death.

**Some of the accomplishments of the Lord Jesus in His life**

We only know some of the story. John wrote, ***"Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written down I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that should be written"***. (Jn. 21:25)

1. **He fulfilled all prophecy relating to His Messiahship**

   There are over 300 exact prophecies about the Messiah given to us in the Old Testament. The Lord Jesus exactly and literally fulfilled each one during His life and ministry.

2. **He fulfilled all righteousness**

   He did **all** the Father had planned for Him to do – every righteous deed – demonstrating every righteous characteristic. He was never late, He never forgot. He never missed an opportunity.

3. **He demonstrated all power over:**
    - Natural forces
        - Calming storms
        - Multiplying food
        - Causing fish to jump into nets
    - Demonic forces
    - Disease
        - Healing lepers
        - Healing the blind
        - Healing the lame etc.
    - Death
4. **Although tempted, He never succumbed to temptation**

    He never failed. He never sinned. He was tempted not only during the 40 days in the desert, but throughout His whole life with **all** the temptations you and I face. He never failed once! This is unique in all of history.

5. **He fully revealed the Father**

    He demonstrated the attributes of God the Father fully and in every way. He said to His disciples, ***"If you have seen Me you have seen the Father."*** (Jn. 14:9) To know the Lord Jesus is to know the Father, not because He is the Father, but because He is the complete revelation of the Father. If you want to know how God would react in a certain situation, you will see a perfect reflection/revelation of that action in the Lord Jesus.

6. **He declared the inauguration of the Kingdom of God**

    The reign of God on earth was brought in through Jesus. He showed that His government had the right to rule and had supremacy over every other rule and government – especially over the kingdom of Satan and all the powers of darkness.

7. **He started a movement** – the church – that has had a greater impact on the peoples of this world than any other.
    - About 10-11% of the world's population are evangelical Christians.
    - The growth rate is over 7% per year (3 times that of Islam).
    - It proclaims the only universal truth and it can penetrate all cultures.
    - It has the power to transform individual people, families, communities and nations.

    These are just a few of the things Jesus did in His lifetime on earth. No one else has ever come close to what the Lord Jesus accomplished. Yet He accomplished much more in His death and resurrection! For most people death is the end of their accomplishments. Not so for the Lord Jesus!

**Five ironic features about the death of Jesus**

1. **The Lord and Creator of life died**

    Col. 1:16 ***"For by Him all things were created, by Him and for Him."***
    - It was Jesus who created the world/universe.
    - It was Jesus who said, ***"Let there be light!"***

- He was the Creator of life – the essence of life – but He died!
- I don't think the disciples thought that Jesus **could** die. They had seen Him raise the dead to life. He had told them, ***"I am the resurrection and the life"***. (Jn. 11:25) They had lived with Him for over three years and had come to believe that He was the epitome of life – the essence of life – so it would be impossible for Him to die. Yet Jesus died! He experienced death. There was no plot to fool eyewitnesses – no substitution. His mother was there and she couldn't be fooled. Jesus – the eternal Lord of Life – died!

**2. He died so easily**

- There was a small plot in the night and it was less than 24 hours (probably about 15) from His arrest to His death.
- No angels interfered. 72,000 angels (12 legions) could have come to His aid. Remember what one angel did to the army of Sennacherib instantly killing 185,000. (Is. 37:36-38) 72,000 x 185,000 = 13.3 billion – twice the current population of the earth! But no angel was sent.
- The disciples ran away in fear.
- The crowds who had cheered Jesus on Palm Sunday were fickle and shouted, 'Crucify Him!'
- The usually brave Romans were cowardly and gave in. Roman justice came to nothing.
- They had tried to kill Jesus before but He had just walked through them. Clearly they had no power over Him unless He allowed it to happen.
- There was a very brief moment when the veiled glory shone out.

  Jn. 18:5.6: ***" 'Whom do you seek?' and they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth'. Jesus answered,*** [in Aramaic He said 'I am' – the great name of the God of Glory] ***… and they drew back and fell to the ground."***

  Possibly a tiny ray of glory escaped and that knocked them over as Jesus declared who He was.
- The Jewish authorities thought it would be so hard to kill Jesus, yet it was so easy! Just a short time before a huge crowd had cheered Him into Jerusalem shouting that He was King. Now there was so little protest.
- The disciples were stunned that Jesus gave Himself over to death. Perhaps this had a bearing on why Judas committed suicide.

**3. He died so quickly**

Usually the victims of crucifixion died slowly over many days – usually from suffocation caused by the muscles on the chest cramping and from dehydration. The nails, the lash and the crown of thorns did not cause mortal wounds. So it is surprising that He died and especially that He died so quickly.

Hymns speak of Jesus dying of a broken heart. There is some medical evidence for this! Apparently there was a rupture of the cardiac sac because when the soldier thrust a spear into His side Jesus was already dead and out came blood and fluid – 'water'.

The two thieves had their legs broken to speed up death. Scripture makes it very clear that Jesus didn't have a long drawn out fight with death until it finally overcame Him.

No, He gave up His life voluntarily. ***"Jesus gave up His Spirit."*** (Jn. 19:30) His life was not taken from Him. He was always in control.

The centurion was very used to seeing men die by crucifixion. When he saw **how** Jesus died he was astonished and cried out, ***"Truly this is the Son of God!".*** (Mk. 15:39)

**4. Notice who was there and who was not there**

It is ironic that those you thought would be there at His death were not there and those you would not have thought of as being there were, surprisingly, there at His death.

- The disciples had fled except for John.
- There were some women there: ***"Mary the mother of Jesus and her sister Mary the mother of James, Salome and Mary Magdalene"*** . (Jn. 19:25.26)
- At this critical moment two men stepped forward and identified themselves with the cause of Jesus when it was apparently finished! They were Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea. Nicodemus had earlier come to talk to Jesus timidly at night. Both Joseph and Nicodemus were members of the Sanhedrin and both were evidently secret disciples. (Jn. 19:38) Now, when it seems that all hope is gone, they boldly step forward and identify themselves with the cause of Jesus!

  Both men were experts in the law and yet they were prepared to defile themselves by touching a dead body and so becoming unclean just before the Passover! Both were wealthy, powerful men from 'the outside' who came and bathed Jesus' body, anointed it and wrapped it ready for burial.

**5. The death of Jesus resulted in honour in burial**

The fifth ironic fact about the death of Jesus was that the Holy and Righteous One died with the wicked, but He was buried by the rich with honour in a rich man's tomb. The prophet Isaiah had spoken about this 700 years earlier and his prophecy was exactly fulfilled. (Is. 53:9)

So soon after 3.00 pm on Friday (or as many think – Wednesday) afternoon, the lifeless body of Jesus was hanging dead on the Cross.

- John saw Him die.
- Peter thought He was dead and went and wept bitter tears.
- Judas knew He was dead and went and committed suicide.
- The centurion knew He was dead and he was an expert. He saw Him die and plunged a spear into His heart to make sure Pilate knew He was dead and so would release the body.
- The Jewish authorities knew He was dead and set a guard on the tomb. (Mt. 28:66)
- The women knew He was dead and they saw Him buried.
- Nicodemus and Joseph knew He was dead and wrapped His body in grave wrappings with special ointments.

**Jesus was dead.** There was no trick or deception. There was no substitution. It really was Jesus who had died. Surely His mother would know! It was her son Jesus!

**But in dying Jesus never stopped being Lord and triumphing over His enemies.** He never stopped being victorious! **This is very important** because we have many friends who see

that the death of Jesus brings shame and dishonour on God for failing to protect His prophet!

**A boxing analogy** might help to illustrate this. On the Cross Satan gave the Lord Jesus his very best blow with all his strength and hoped that it would be enough to knock out for ever Jesus – the Creator of life and the Heir of all things. Jesus took death. He wasn't just hurt. He died. But in delivering this blow Satan lost everything. He was finally defeated and all his works destroyed!

1 Cor. 15:55, ***"O death where is your victory? O death where is your sting?"***

1 Jn. 3:8, ***"For this purpose Christ was revealed that He would destroy all the works of the evil one."***

When the Lord Jesus died He did something irreversible to death. Jesus took the sting of death. How did He do this? I would like to mention 8 ways.

**The accomplishments of Jesus on the Cross and on Resurrection Day**

1. ***He offered up a perfect sacrifice for sin –*** Heb. 9:11-14.

   In the history of the world there have been many sacrifices to propitiate God/gods for sins committed. When Jesus died, for the first and only time in all history, a priestly sacrifice was made that was acceptable to God.

- Animals have been sacrificed. People have gone through their flocks and herds to find the very best to offer to God. Human beings have even been sacrificed.
- On crude stone altars and on every elaborate golden altar all over the world priests have offered sacrifices to God.
- There are many sorts of sacrifices even today. The Hindu keeps his arm in the air so long that it calcifies. Tibetans go on their long prostration pilgrimages.
- Yet there has never been a sacrifice by a sinful person good enough to atone for sin, to placate God or even as an act of submission. Not a single sacrifice was ever good enough!
- Now Jesus was offering a sacrifice of His own blood in the eternal tabernacle. This was an offering for the sin of the whole world.
- Jesus, ***"Through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God"***. (Heb. 9:14)
  - For every man, woman and child
  - For everyone who has been born and will be born
  - For every sin, every murder, every lie, every covetous look, every immoral thought
  - For every evil thing that had offended or would offend a righteous God
- The question is: 'Was it good enough?'

  Rom. 4:25: ***"He who was delivered up because of our transgressions, was raised up for our justification."***
- He was delivered up for our transgressions.

  He took responsibility for the sins of the world – the sins of the lost, the sins of the saints, all my past and future sins and this was completely just! If Jesus had died as

the perfect, sinless Son of Man it would have been a gross injustice and our friends would be right in their objection.

But No! Jesus took responsibility for all the sins of humanity and God delivered Him to death **because that is what our sins deserve**. ***"The wages of sin is death"***. (Rom. 6:23)

So on the Cross a sacrifice was being made, but this was only a shadow of what was happening in the heavenly tabernacle. (Heb. 9:11-14) A priest entered the tabernacle with the blood of the sacrifice of the Cross and said, in effect:

*"Father, here is an offering of My blood for the sin of everyone who has ever sinned and who will ever sin – every man, every woman, every child no matter how bad and horrible. Here is a sacrifice enough for the sin of the whole world."*

I don't know if there was a pause – a silence! This was the greatest moment in all eternity!

The Father responded, *"Yes! I accept this sacrifice. It is enough!"*

By His blood we are cleansed. (1 Jn. 1:7) Jesus put His blood on the altar and that washed away all sin! A once-for-all, full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice was made for the sins of the whole world.

**How can we know this was true?**

Rom. 4:25, ***"He was raised again for our justification."***

Heb. 13:20, ***"Now the God of peace who brought up from the dead the Great Shepherd of the Sheep, through the blood of the Eternal Covenant, even Jesus Our Lord …."***

The value of the blood of Jesus shed in death was more than enough for all the sins for which He took responsibility. This is because of the infinite value of the person of Jesus. That is the significance of His great cry, ***"It is finished!"*** or ***"Finished"!*** (Jn. 19:30)

Jesus was raised from the dead by the value of His death. He is clear of all the sins for which He took responsibility. Sin lost its power to condemn Him and so it has lost its power to condemn me! He had more sin reckoned to Him than I have ever had. If His blood was of **sufficient value** to be accepted by the Father and to release Him from darkness and death, then if my substitute is free, so am I!

**This is my living hope.** The Cross is an end to mourning over my failures and struggling for a better righteousness before God. The more we try, the more self-condemned we become. No! Jesus offered up a perfect sacrifice for me. That is very good news indeed!

***2. When Jesus died He inaugurated a New Covenant and we are the beneficiaries.***

The Old Covenant was pretty good – read the blessings in Deut. 28:2-14. The problem was that the People of God **so easily forgot** the Covenant and the consequences of disobedience were very great.

The New Covenant/Will was different and so very much better. This new will had been written for eternity but it couldn't come into effect until Jesus died. He owns all things. He is wisdom, sanctification, peace, joy, love etc. Read Heb. 9:15-28.

I can't lay claim to the benefits of the will unless the one who made it has died. The hour that the New Covenant was ratified was the hour of Jesus' death. So now we are beneficiaries of the will.

What are the promises of the New Covenant? What do we inherit? Apparently there are over 8000 promises that apply to us **now** and a lot more for our future life. This is according to Dr Yoggi Choi who has tried to count them all. Perhaps the greatest of all these promises is **the gift of the Holy Spirit** – our Companion given to us by God.

* He is a witnessing God who enables us to be witnesses.
* He leads us into all truth.
* He empowers us.
* He makes **real** to us all that God is.
* He brings comfort to us by His calmness and competence.

Another great gift bequeathed to us in the will is **access into heaven** both now and later!

Ps. 24:3-5, ***"Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord and who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted his soul to falsehood and has not sworn deceitfully. He shall receive a blessing from the Lord."***

Well then, there is no hope at all for me! I am excluded from blessing. I have no place at the banquet – no place at the deepest place of fellowship with God!

But here comes another! He is ascending the hill and comes to the gates! Who is He? He is the Lord of Glory – the King of Glory! By virtue of that blood, **He has access**!

Heb. 6:20, ***"Within the veil where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest for ever."***

I can imagine something like this: *"Father I have come back … but not only I! I am the forerunner of many millions coming along behind …".*

I can sense the great welcome.

And I am in that great crowd – saved by grace. I get into the banquet by the mighty power of the death of the Lord Jesus (see 1 Cor. 3:21-23). So I enter into all the blessings of the New Covenant. Now it is no longer only a promise. It is a reality. It is so much better to **have something** than just to anticipate having it!

***3. Jesus overcame the power of death and released us from the fear of death.***

Col. 2:12, ***" ... having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God who raised Him from the dead."***

Death had a finality about it. There was great fear of death in the Graeco-Roman World of the first century. Romans tried to exorcise their fear of death by constantly seeking it – hence gladiators. This is probably also the reason why films and video games are getting increasingly violent in the 21st century.

The Old Testament has an equivocal attitude to death. In post-modern Europe there is almost no concept of eternal life at all. There are films where the spiritual being returns to help people in this world. Among our Muslim friends 'paradise' is very 'earthly' – a place where you can more or less do everything prohibited now!

The early church made a vast impression on the 1st and 2nd century Mediterranean World by their attitude to death. It was obvious that they believed what came next was hugely better than this life.

For example: Justin Martyr was asked at his trial, *'Do you suppose that you will live after death?'* He replied, *'No, I do not suppose (or think)* ***I know*** *and am fully convinced that I will see my Lord/Emperor….'*

When Jesus died and rose again He released us from all fear of death.

Rev. 1:8, ***"Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last and the Living One. I was dead and behold I am alive for evermore and I have the keys of death and Hades."***

It was on the Cross that Jesus captured the keys! Satan no longer has any rights to control the death process.

Heb. 2:14,15, ***"Since then, the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself partook of the same that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death – that is the Devil – and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives."***

So we have no need to fear judgement and we are set free from the fear of death. The New Testament pictures death as our bodies being like an old ragged coat we are fond of because it is familiar. We take it off to receive a better, glorious new coat.

4. ***When Jesus died He disarmed the principalities and powers.***

   Col. 2:15, ***"He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame by triumphing over them …."***

   There are satanic forces armed against you and me. One of the weapons they are armed with is your guilt. What they say about us is usually based on the truth, but is always somewhat distorted. They speak to us of our failures and our faults. They keep a list of all we have done wrong. When you rise up to accomplish the purposes of God they clamour and threaten you with your past.

   They are also armed with fear and with the drive to be 'successful', wealthy and powerful. They are armed with plots and all kinds of imaginations and fears. They attack whenever possible with the aim of destroying and paralysing you.

   The Lord Jesus **disarmed** them by His death on the Cross. He showed them something that nullifies all their weapons. What is it? **The cancellation of our debt!**

   Jn. 12:31, ***"Now judgement is come into this world, now the ruler of this world shall be cast out."***

   Jesus made a **triumphal parade** of the defeat of those evil powers through the spiritual realm so that all the angelic hosts knew who the victor was. Satan used to rule in that spiritual realm. He kept people in darkness and blinded their eyes. We were in fear and in bondage having no freedom of will. We lived in a warped society among degraded people. But Jesus is "The Strong Man" – the One who disarmed Satan (i.e. removed the weapons and the armour from him). Satan may roar like a lion, but he has no real power over us any longer!

5. ***When Jesus died we were set free from the dominion of self/the flesh in order to rule.***

   Some key verses: Rom. 6:6-14 and Col. 2:11-13

   **When Jesus died, we died.** When this great truth dawned on the Chinese evangelist Watchman Nee it was in the early hours of the morning. He ran out into the streets shouting, *'I'm dead, I'm dead, praise God I'm dead!'*

Why did he rejoice that he was dead? It was because corpses don't respond! If you kick a corpse and it jumps up and punches you on the nose, you know it isn't a corpse. It is not dead! Being dead to the flesh means that we aren't provoked by temptation!

When Jesus rose, we rose! We are new people. When Jesus ascended so, potentially, did we! See Eph. 3:9-11. Jesus is the representative of all redeemed humanity – Heb. 2:5-9.

**What do we do in the heavenlies?**

We are made to sit – the place of authority ***"to us who believe"***. Eph. 1:19

We are like corked bottles surrounded by the omnipotence of God. Like the waters of a fountain it will only get into the bottle if the cork is removed. You can be submerged in the power of God but not have any <u>in</u> you. You can still be empty. What can you do? How can the cork be removed? ***"May your minds be enlightened."*** (Eph. 1:18)

- **Believe** – Eph. 1:3 & 2:6, ***"Seat yourselves in heavenly places"*** – uncork the bottle.
- **Only humility before God will keep you seated.**
  2 Cor. 13:4, ***"He was crucified in weakness"***. We must dread and fear a spirit of independence!
- **Be bold!** The 'heavenly places' is a place of great conflict. The accuser will attack. Overcome by the blood of the Lamb – Rev. 12:1.
- **Our authority is over the 'powers of the air'.** It is never over our fellow men or their wills. Satan wants the control of our wills. If we try to exercise authority over the wills of others we are under satanic manipulation.

***6. By His death He brought reconciliation and unity in ONE new creation.***

Col. 1:21-22, ***"And you, who were once alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, He has reconciled in His body of flesh by His death in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him."***

See also Eph. 2:11-19.

How do the 'powers' operate? It is often by division – divide and rule. But we are **now** one in Christ Jesus.

Gal. 3:28, ***"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female – for you are ALL ONE in Christ Jesus."***

This means that among God's people there are no sources of division on the basis of national/cultural differences, economic differences or gender differences.

**How did Christ win the victory?**

a) He revealed to us the strategy of the enemy. The battle is always much easier if you know the plans and strategies of the enemy.

b) He showed us how to be reconciled.
   Any divisions among us will play into the hands of our enemy. We must get to the foot of the Cross, repent and resolve our difficulties.

***7. When Jesus died He heralded His triumph in hell.***

1 Pet. 3:19, ***"…in which He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison…."***.
This refers back as far as Noah. He didn't go to proclaim good news, but rather to herald/declare His triumph.

There is a division of opinion as to what is meant by ***"spirits in prison"***. Possibilities are:

* Departed human spirits – as in Heb. 12:23 – 'the spirits of just men'.
* Fallen angels (Gen. 6:1-4; 2 Pet. 2:4-5) – fallen angels who transgressed their due order prior to the flood – imprisoned in ***"everlasting bonds under darkness unto judgement of the great day"***.

***8. By His death He won the right to take the title deed of all creation.***

See Rev. 5:1-14

- The scroll is the title deed of all creation. It contains the plans for the final putting down of evil and the redemption of all that has been marred by Satan and by sin.
- It is the Father who holds the title deed.
- John wept for there was no one able to deal with earth's problems.
- Jesus was found **worthy** to take the scroll. It was not because He **will** overcome. He **has already** overcome. He overcame when He said, ***"It is finished!"***.
- Jesus was never more **worthy** than the day He died.
- All ***"the spiritual, heavenly beings"*** cried out the **worth** of the Lamb that was slain.
- Jesus took the scroll and that day all creation **knew** that its Lord had prevailed and won.
- If you think all this **is going to happen**, then you will have a happy day when it does happen. But if you believe it **has happened** you can have a happy day now and every day!

**In Summary**

In His death and resurrection Jesus:

- Entered into His present priestly ministry. ***"He lives to make intercession for us"***. (Rom. 8:34)
- Closed the perfect life of obedience.
- Completed a perfect sacrifice.
- Inaugurated a New Covenant.
- Was judged in our place.
- Set us free from the dominion of the flesh.
- Disarmed the rulers of this world and had a triumph in the heavenly realm.
- Took the keys of death and Hades.
- Stepped forward and took the title deed.

**Death was no defeat!**

**On Resurrection Morning**

The earth shook at His death and it shook again at His resurrection. (Mt. 28:2)

- An angel of God came and rolled the stone away.
- Women went to the tomb. They were very sad and were speculating about the body. How they would roll away the stone and how they would manage to anoint Jesus' body? Did they have enough spices?
- They saw a terrifying spirit – a radiant angel!
- Perhaps angels are always happy – this was a happy angel.
- Perhaps the angels were greatly disturbed by the trial and crucifixion of their Lord and Creator. Perhaps they didn't understand.
- But the angels were restrained otherwise they would have destroyed all the people.
- Early Sunday morning one angel had a happy responsibility – to shake the earth a bit, remove the stone and tell the women about the resurrection!
- Did thousands volunteer? We don't know, but one angel spoke those great words, ***"Why do you seek the Living (One) among the dead?"***. (Lk. 24:5)

**Jesus after the Resurrection – awe!**

The women who went to the tomb were godly women who really loved Jesus. However, they came to a mortal, restricted Jesus – a Jesus that they had created by their love and devotion. They came to a Jesus who needed their help – a broken and defeated Jesus. They had a sentimental love for a Jesus who they thought had been overcome by powers and forces stronger than Himself.

But when they arrived they found **an empty tomb** and **a Risen Lord**! They came to a Jesus who had:

- Conquered hell
- Decisively defeated Satan
- Disarmed the principalities and powers
- Defeated death
- Offered up the perfect sacrifice
- Commanded angels
- Risen as a guarantee of our justification
- Become our forerunner
- Inaugurated a New Covenant
- Secured the right to hold the title deed to all creation

They came to a Jesus who said, ***"All authority has been given to Me!"***. (Mt. 28:18)

They came to a Jesus who was the **Overcomer** – the Victorious One – the All-powerful Lord with no limit to His authority.

He trod His foes beneath His feet by Himself being trodden down. This was the triumph of the Crucified! He was the Lamb worthy to reign!

This was no longer the Jesus they knew who needed their help! God is not dependent on us. We are dependent on Him. There is no prison that can hold the Lord Jesus!

- Not the prison of our unbelief
- Not the prison of our fear
- Not the prison of Satan's plots
- Not the prison of dead religion
- Not death

NOTHING!

He is our **victorious** Lord! He doesn't need our sentimentalism or our protectionist attitude. He is God! He will save us! When we can do no more, He has not even begun! We don't even test His resources until we attempt the impossible. **Jesus is Lord!**

This Jesus fills me with awe! But I glory in the Lord Jesus. I present to you:

**My Master, My Saviour, My King and My Friend – the Lord Jesus!**

**A Closing Prayer**

*Father, thank You for the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus, help us to see You again as our liberator. We need to see again how great a salvation You accomplished for us.*

*Go into our prisons – prisons of our own construction – prisons of fear, failure and defeatist mind-sets. Loose us and set us free! Empower us to live boldly, believing the covenant and inheriting the blessings. Please set off great explosions of joy in our lives as we understand in a deeper way Your death and resurrection and Your power available in our lives today and every day.*