

LIVING TRUTH



# VICTORIOUS

AN EASTER TRILOGY

MESSAGE GUIDE

## MESSAGE GUIDE

*This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.*

*The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on this message given by Brett McBride*

*We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer...sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.*

*As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Brett's message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord that may not have been immediately obvious.*

# MESSAGE GUIDE & QUESTIONS

## Victorious – An Easter Trilogy

### PART 1 – REVELATION REQUIRES A RESPONSE

*Matthew 21:12-17*

1. Read and consider Matthew 21:12-17

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2. 1. The Revelation of Jesus  
Read and consider Zechariah 9:9

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3. 2. The Rebuke of Jesus  
Read and consider Matthew 21:12-13

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4. Why was Jesus so angry and worked up?

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5. Read and consider: Isaiah 56:7 and Jeremiah 7:11

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6. Jesus has confronted the Temple system by t\_\_\_\_\_ it upside down, and He confronts the corruption of the leaders; but they are not listening.

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7. Read and consider: Jeremiah 7:13

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8. 3. The Response to Jesus  
Read and consider: Matthew 21:14-15

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### Final Thoughts

God's Name was being defamed because of the actions of His people. The actions of His priests, and His people, either compliment, or harm, His Name! The slanted purity system and corrupt temple practices that limited 'gentiles' from worshipping and exploited the poor, were harming God's purposes for the Temple! The danger of sin is that it is never interested in a 'peer to peer' relationship...it is always master / slave.

God's people who engaged in these practices did not arrive there overnight – It was a progressive hardening of their hearts that resulted in this condemnation. Is there something in YOUR life that is robbing God of having all of you? Has He drawn your attention to something He wants to drive out of YOUR temple?

Left untended, sin hardens our hearts to His promptings.

We become calloused to His call!

### Victorious – An Easter Trilogy

## PART 2 – HE GIVES US THE VICTORY

*1 Corinthians 15:56-58*

1. Read and consider 1 Corinthians 15:56-58  
What kind of church is Paul writing to here?  
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2. What does Paul remind the church at Corinth about?  
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3. What is the attitude of those who feel they are OK with God because they haven't broken the Big Ten?  
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4. But then along comes Jesus and He explains the 10 Commandments in a little more detail. Read and consider Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28. What is Jesus dealing with directly here?  
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5. Read then and consider what Romans 3:20 tells us...  
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6. Read and consider 1 Corinthians 15:1-4  
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7. Read and consider Isaiah 54:5 & 6  
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8. Read and consider Romans 3:21-22  
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### Final Thoughts

The pattern that you notice throughout the Old Testament is that nobody, not ONE human being, is able to obey God's Law fully:  
Some are grossly breach His law.

Others seem like they commit simple misdemeanors.  
Some fall away from it intentionally.  
Others drift away from it slowly.

## Victorious – An Easter Trilogy

### PART 3 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### *John 21*

1. Read and consider John 21.  
Sometimes our lowest moments in our lives can be the pathway for Christ to work.  

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2. On the night that Jesus was betrayed, Peter needed to learn some crucial questions about himself, so Jesus is now going to revisit that event to deal with some unfinished business.  
Read and consider John 21:15  

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3. **2. The Pitfalls of Penance:** Read and consider John 21:16  

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4. What path is Jesus leading Paul down?  

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5. Read and consider Isaiah 66:2  

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6. **3. The Painful Realization:** Read and consider John 21:17  

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7. What was it that Peter needed to learn? And that Jesus loved him so much [and had such an important task for him] that He [Jesus] was willing to risk temporarily hurting Peter?  

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### Final Thoughts

Pride can be a danger for those in the Kingdom.  
Sometimes we think our position of responsibility makes us more special than others.  
We may subtly believe that some parts of the body are more dispensable than others.  
What is remarkable about the Christian life is that Jesus is not expecting us to somehow produce fruit on our own! He allows us to experience some epic failures, so that we will become disillusioned, and then He can press in on the areas where we have been depending on our own resources to overcome! This enables us to grasp that our obedience to Him is realized through our dependence upon Him.  
Peter didn't lose his confidence in Christ—  
he just put it in its proper place ...in Christ!

## LEADER'S MESSAGE GUIDE

*This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.*

*Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need for the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' whilst also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.*

# LEADER'S MESSAGE GUIDE & QUESTIONS

## Victorious – An Easter Trilogy

### PART 1 – REVELATION REQUIRES A RESPONSE

*Matthew 21:12-17*

1. 2 things that we will look at are:
  - a. The events that occurred leading up to Jesus' crucifixion on 'Good Friday'.
  - b. The challenged Jesus uttered to His People – that still rings true for His people today.

These will be looked at under the context of these 3 headings:

1. The Revelation of Jesus
2. The Rebuke of Jesus
3. The Response to Jesus

2. This is the Old Testament messianic passage that foretold the coming of the Messiah King who would restore Israel.
3. The disciples thought that Jesus was going to reveal Himself majestically; but what happened?
4. The Jerusalem Temple was geographically and symbolically the centre of the 'purity system', and yet here it was being totally corrupted and used to take advantage of the poor and disadvantaged.

God's Name was being defamed because of the actions of His people.

5. These verses will help you to understand exactly what Jesus was saying to the leaders.
6. Jesus has confronted the Temple system by turning it upside down, and He confronts the corruption of the leaders; but they are not listening.  
All the while they are thinking to themselves:  
**We are safe to do all these things!**
7. Left untended, sin hardens our hearts to His promptings.  
We become calloused to His call! Is there something that Jesus wants to drive out of your temple?
8. It is interesting that despite what Leviticus 21:18 says, it was the blind and the lame who were drawn to Jesus as He is ushering a NEW COVENANT.

The law would only have ever pronounced the blind and the lame as 'unclean', but now Jesus not only receives them, but He heals them too – further angering the religious leaders of the day.

**Go to Final Thoughts.**

## Victorious – An Easter Trilogy

### PART 2 – HE GIVES US THE VICTORY

*1 Corinthians 15:56-58*

1. Paul is writing to the church at Corinth that is filled with divisions, immorality, quarrels and dysfunction.
2. Well he reminds the people about the 10 Commandments, But also that—**The sting of death is sin**, and that **the power of sin is the law**.
3.
  - a. They relied on their law-keeping as the basis for a relationship with God!
  - b. They looked down on others who weren't as devout as they were.
4. Here, Jesus deals directly with Murder and Adultery.
5. Romans 3:20: **Therefore, no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law**; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.
6. Paul wanted [needed] to remind the Corinthians of the Gospel, and that it was by the Gospel that they are saved! Christ Jesus died – Why? – for our sins. For every time we broke the law; for every time we fell short of His perfection. For every time we said “you fool”—for every careless word.
7. Christ died for our sins! He was buried for our transgressions! He was raised victorious over death because He was sinless! It's all about **what He has done**.

8. **In the Old Testament: His Law was given.**  
**In the New Testament: His LIFE was given**

Go to Final Thoughts.

## Victorious – An Easter Trilogy

### PART 3 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

*John 21*

1. Today we will look at 3 headings:
  1. The Problem of Pride
  2. The Pitfalls of Penance
  3. The Painful Realization
2. **1. The Problem of Pride.**  
Jesus does NOT rub Peter's failure in his face. The disciples were chronic for arguing about who would be the greatest! **The moment we begin to compare ourselves with others is the moment we're slipping into the pride that was a problem for Peter. Peter's sense of pride over others is broken. As Peter displays humility—Jesus bestows responsibility.**
3. When a person has had an 'Epic Failure' such as Peter had when denying Jesus 3 times; there are 2 pitfalls that a person can fall into.
  1. Overcompensating to double down on efforts to do better. Driven by 'trying harder', but it brings no joy.
  - 2 The second pit a believer can fall into is that of 'depression'. Constant self-recriminations also know little of the rejoicing heart.



4. Jesus draws out of Peter a reaffirmation of his love for Jesus. Love is to be our motivation as Christ followers. **What is truly remarkable throughout this process is that as Jesus presses Peter to revisit the pain of his failure—He increases Peter’s responsibility within the church!**
5. “These are the ones I look on with favor; those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at My Word.”  
**As Peter assumes these greater responsibilities, he will enter them with his confidence firmly rooted in Christ, not himself.**
6. Jesus is: Gentle, Loving, Pure, Holy, Forgiving.  
But has He ever hurt you? Sometimes love hurts!  
And sometimes all it takes is deep penetrating questions.
7. Peter needed to learn about ‘himself’; and Peter’s failure [the 3 denials] taught him some important lessons about his own need.

**Go to Final Thoughts.**