



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE  
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

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# THE NARROW WAY OF LIFE

*and the “three days of difficulty” that every true saint must traverse*



So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

**Genesis 3:24**

Jesus said to him, *I am the Way* . . .

**John 14:6**

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

**Matthew 7:13-14**

## Entering the Suffering Christ

- I am in Christ
- I am in Christ, therefore, His sufferings are my sufferings
- His affliction, my affliction
- His death, my death
- His burial, my burial

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**Romans 6:3-4**

## What Have We Gotten Ourselves Into?

He is brought **as a lamb to the slaughter**, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opens not His mouth.

## The Strange Three Day Journey

When all seems backwards, dark, and lost

- Betrayal
- False Accusation
- Scourging
- Crucifixion
- Death
- Burial
- Stone Rolled in Front
- Silence
- Silence
- Silence

## Can God Lie?

## Has God Promised?

## The Word of God on the Matter

And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

**Mark 8:31**

## The Word of the Devil on the Subject

Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

**Matthew 27:63**

# How are You Going to Handle the Three Day Test?

## The “Three Days of Christ” Were Long Ago Foretold

### 1. The Three-Day “Are You Willing?” Test

*Three days to Mount Moriah and it's time for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22:1-14)*

#### The Gospel Question:

*Are you willing to give up that which is most precious to you to follow Jesus Christ?*

### 2. The Three-Day “Will You Buckle?” Test

*Three days to the edge of the Red Sea (Exodus 14:1-31)*

#### The Gospel Question:

*Can God fail you? Is it not true that He is faithful to His Word and that it is impossible for Him to lie? Is there ever a time when it is reasonable to despair?*

### 3. The Three-Day “Bitter Waters” Test

*Three days journey with no water and now . . . Marah (Exodus 15:22-26)*

#### The Gospel Question:

*Will He not turn this bitterness into sweetness?*

### 4. The Three-Day “Are you Ready to Try the Impossible?” Test

*In three days the Israelites are heading across the Jordan and out against the giants (Joshua 1:11)*

#### The Gospel Question:

*Is He not greater than the boastings of this natural realm?*

## 5. The Three-Day “But, I Can’t Go Another Step” Test

*Three days of total exhaustion, but David and his troops must go on (1 Samuel 30:1-3, 9-10)*

### The Gospel Question:

*Will He not cause you to rise up with wings as eagles and run and not grow weary?*

## 6. The Three-Day “If I Perish, I Perish” Test

*In three days Esther will risk her life and stand before the King (Esther 4:16)*

### The Gospel Question:

*Is He not worthy of our entire lives? And even if we die, is His cause not deserving of our body and blood?*

## 7. The Three-Day “In the Belly of the Earth” Test

*For three days and three nights Jonah is in the belly of the great fish (Jonah 1:17)*

### The Gospel Question:

*Is He not the Resurrection and the Life?*

## The Three Days are Begging an Answer

- Though heeding your God will cost you everything . . .
- Though it would appear that the enemy forces outnumber you and you are pinned up against the Red Sea . . .
- Though the waters are currently tasting bitter . . .
- Though the enemy has walled cities that reach up to the heavens, there are giants in the land, and you appear as grasshoppers in their sight . . .
- Though your fuel tank has run low, your spiritual mustard has lost its zest . . .
- Though death is imminent and to keep standing strong seems futile and ridiculous . . .
- Though the circumstances are wholly impossible. . .

## Can Your God Lie?

## Has Your God Promised?

## The Three Days Always End with Triumph

- Provision of a Lamb
- Parting of a Red Sea and Swallowing up of a Dastardly Enemy
- Sweet Waters
- The Conquering of Canaan
- The Destruction of the Amalekites
- The Hanging of Haman
- The Spitting Back out of Jonah

**On the third day He will raise us up**, That we may live in His sight.

**Hosea 6:2**

## Entering the ~~Suffering~~ Triumphant Christ

- I am in Christ
- I am in Christ, therefore, His sufferings are my sufferings
- His affliction, my affliction
- His death, my death
- His burial, my burial
- His resurrection, my resurrection
- His ascension, my ascension
- His seat, my seat

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

**Ephesians 2:6**

# God's Apparent Silence

Is He Really Silent?

Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am He.

**John 13:19**

Now I tell you before it come to pass, that, when we enter the three days of silence and darkness, ye may remember and stand firm on the fact that I have already spoken and I'm not going to change my mind on the matter now.

**John 13:19**

*(the massively expanded version)*

## The Three Days "Crucified and Buried" Test

He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

**Matthew 28:6**