



Jesus, The Firstfruits!

April 28, 2024 – Lev. 23:9-14; Deut. 26:8-10
Pastor Jon Pickens

The Feast of Firstfruits (Lev. 23:9-14)

1. Observations about the Feast of Firstfruits:
 - a. This feast was not to be practiced until they **occupied** the promised land.
 - b. Firstfruits was the **early** harvest of barley consecrated to the Lord.
 - c. They were to give a sheaf of the firstfruits to the priest to **wave** it before the Lord.
 - d. This wave offering was accompanied by a **burnt** offering, a grain offering, and a drink offering.
2. The Significance of Firstfruits:
 - a. This Firstfruits wave offering signified God's **acceptance** of Israel.
 - b. It also highlights the **land** promise God made to Israel.
 - c. It continues the story of God's **redemption** of Israel.
 - d. Firstfruits was an act of **consecrating** the first harvest to God trusting He would provide for them what they needed for the rest of the season.

Jesus' Connection to Firstfruits

1. Paul connects Firstfruits with the **resurrection** of Jesus.
2. The resurrection of Jesus took place **on** the **day** of firstfruits.

What Does Firstfruits Teach Us?

1. It teaches us to be **thankful** for our salvation!
2. It teaches us to **trust** in the Lord's provision.
3. It teaches us to **guard** our hearts from greed.
4. It teaches us to live with **hope**.

Discussion Questions:

1. What were a few ideas about firstfruits that stuck out to you through the message?
2. In an agrarian culture, the first of the harvest was a significant sacrifice. What would firstfruits look like for us today?
3. What are the benefits of us giving our "firstfruits" to God?
4. Jesus is the fulfillment of firstfruits. How can this give you hope?
5. What are some benefits you enjoy because of your salvation in Christ that you can be thankful for? Spend some time as an individual or in your group to pray and express our gratitude toward the Lord.
6. What action are you going to take as a result of what God's Word teaches?

Next Steps:

1. If you would like to become a follower of Jesus, please let us know. Pastor Jon will be down front after the service and would love to connect.
2. If you are interested in baptism, let Pastor Jon know in person or email him at pj@fbclowell.org.
3. Read the Bible with us to know God and respond to Him! Below is our current schedule.

April 2024				
Week 1 Starting Apr 1	Week 2 Starting Apr 8	Week 3 Starting Apr 15	Week 4 Starting Apr 22	Week 5 Starting Apr 29
Day 1: Psalm 128 - 131	Day 1: Psalm 143, 144	Day 1: Genesis 2	Day 1: Genesis 7	Day 1: Genesis 12
Day 2: Psalm 132 - 134	Day 2: Psalm 145, 146	Day 2: Genesis 3	Day 2: Genesis 8	Day 2: Genesis 13
Day 3: Psalm 135, 136	Day 3: Psalm 147, 148	Day 3: Genesis 4	Day 3: Genesis 9	Day 3: Genesis 14
Day 4: Psalm 137 - 139	Day 4: Psalm 149, 150	Day 4: Genesis 5	Day 4: Genesis 10	Day 4: Genesis 15
Day 5: Psalm 140 - 142	Day 5: Genesis 1	Day 5: Genesis 6	Day 5: Genesis 11	Day 5: Genesis 16
<p>¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.</p> <p>¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—</p> <p style="text-align: right;">John 10: 13, 14 (NIV)</p>				

What action are you going to take as a result of what God's Word teaches?