

One Shining Moment

It's MARCH MADNESS!!! Well...at least for college basketball fans! We are now in the midst of something called "The Road to the Final Four." We start with 64 teams then 32, 16, 8, and then the final 4!

Soon, brackets will be filled out and office pools will be starting! I even recall the opening day of the tournament that we would leave and take a 4-hour lunch break to watch the games. I won't tell you how many arguments were started at school back the day though!!

There's an excitement – a fervor – an anticipation of being in this event. If your favorite team is still playing, you'll make it appointment TV time and if your team loses the first weekend then you won't watch anymore and just dream for college football to start soon!

My question for us today is: **Why not celebrate March Madness at the church?**

In John 12, Jerusalem is focused on that "March Madness" excitement. For 3 years, Jesus has been building his ministry toward this day. For 3 years, he has performed one miracle after another miracle. For 3 years, he has healed the sick, the lame, the blind, the leprous. For 3 years, Jesus has attracted one crowd after another to teach them about the coming Kingdom of God.

Finally, Jesus delivered to us a "One Shining Moment." Jesus bled and died upon the cross at Calvary for the sins of every single human being. What shall we give him in return? During this season of Lent, let us focus on the cross and remember what it means to pick up our cross and follow Jesus.

The church is built upon the foundation and power of Jesus Christ. The church was designed to be a vibrant force with the power to overwhelm Satan and his evil desires. For Jesus to create a physical kingdom with earthly boundaries would have limited His church. But Jesus declared "...the kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17:21. You take this Kingdom wherever you go. And no worldly Kingdom has the power to stand against it.

You see: Jesus hadn't come to exercise authority...Jesus came to serve. He came to seek and to save those who were lost. He came to meet our needs and lift us up out of the mire of our everyday lives. He came to minister to us. And that is the mindset He wants to build into His Kingdom. He created the church to be a team effort.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing; so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Shalom,

