

## Plot Twist

We all love comeback stories. I think because the we all want to believe we can comeback when the chips are down. When things aren't going well. When it looks like life has won.

### Anatomy of a Comeback - The Easter Comeback

**STORY/BACKSTORY** - Protagonist = Jesus. Antagonist = Pharisees & Religious Rulers

- Pharisees didn't like Jesus - Because he claimed to be the son of God. He came messing up their traditions...their religion. He taught relationship over rules.

**Holy Week - Triumphal Entry** - Hero Identified. Celebration, cheering.

- **Luke 19:36-40 NLT** - *36 As he rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him. 37 When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen. 38 "Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!" 39 But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, "Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!" 40 He replied, "If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!"*

**CONFLICT** - Run in with the antagonist - Pharisees/Religious rulers - Jesus goes into temple and turns over money changer tables. Outraged the pharisees and religious leaders

- **Luke 19:47 NLT** - *47 After that, he taught daily in the Temple, **but the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the other leaders of the people began planning how to kill him.***

**THE SET UP** - After last supper, Judas betrays Jesus in the garden while he's praying... soldiers take him away and it's starting to look bleak. He goes on trial.

- **Luke 23:13-21 NLT** - *13 Then Pilate called together the leading priests and other religious leaders, along with the people, 14 and he announced his verdict. "You brought this man to me, accusing him of leading a revolt. I have examined him thoroughly on this point in your presence and find him innocent. 15 Herod came to the same conclusion and sent him back to us. Nothing this man has done calls for the death penalty. 16 So I will have him flogged, and then I will release him." 18 Then a mighty roar rose from the crowd, and with one voice they shouted, "**Kill him, and release Barabbas to us!**" 19 (Barabbas was in prison for taking part in an insurrection in Jerusalem against the government, and for murder.) 20 Pilate argued with them, because he wanted to release Jesus. 21 But **they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"***
- **Luke 23:44-46 NLT** - *44 By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. 45 The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. 46 Then Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" And with those words **he breathed his last.***

### THE COMEBACK

- **Luke 24:1-6 NLT** - 1 But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2 They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. 3 So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. 5 The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? 6 **He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!**
- **Revelation 1:18 NLT** - 18 I am the living one. **I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.**
- This is what we celebrate on Easter right? The greatest comeback story ever.

**PLOT TWIST - This wasn't Jesus' comeback story! This was the plan the whole time.**

**Isaiah 53:5 NLT** - 5 But **he was pierced** for our rebellion, **crushed for our sins. He was beaten** so we could be whole. **He was whipped** so we could be healed.

You can't call it a comeback for Jesus if it was his plan the whole time. **Jesus was never losing.** No one took his life. He gave it. Remember his last words on the cross?

- **Luke 23:46 NLT** - 46 Then Jesus shouted, "Father, **I entrust my spirit into your hands!**" And with those words he breathed his last.
- **John 19:30 NLT** - 30 When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "**It is finished!**" Then he bowed his head and **gave up his spirit.**

**THE EASTER COMEBACK ISN'T HIS COMEBACK, IT'S OUR COMEBACK!**

**Ephesians 2:4-5 NLT** - 4 **But God is so rich in mercy**, and he loved us so much, 5 that **even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead.** (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

**Famous easter quote** - Jesus didn't come to make bad people good, but dead people alive.

**The resurrection of Jesus gives you the power to live a comeback story!**

**THE GREATEST ENEMY TO OUR COMEBACK IS US.**

Our pride. Our fear. Desire to control. The unknown on the other side of "death" or surrender. **The comeback only comes through surrender.** "Into your hands I surrender"

**John 5:24-25 NLT** -24 "I tell you the truth, **those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.** 25 "And I assure you that the time is coming, indeed **it's here now**, when **the dead will hear** my voice—the voice of the Son of God. And **those who listen will live.**

**The life you want most is on the other side of surrender.**