

The Eternal Sacrifice – Lent Week 2

The centrality of the Cross:

- Gospels are a third to quarter on the passion. John's gospel nearly half
- John talked about the 'hour' Jesus came for
 - 12:27 *"now my soul is troubled and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour? But for this purpose I came to this hour"*
 - 17:1 *"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son that your Son also may glorify You"*
- Paul: Gal 6:14 *"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ"*
- 1 Cor 1:18 *"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God"*

Why so important?

Problem: collision between

1. Divine perfection. God is holy, God is perfect.
2. Human Sinfulness. Rom 3:23 *"All have sinned and fallen short of Gods glory"*

How can God embrace sinful humanity yet remain true to His holiness?

Solution:

Old Testament: God made a way through sacrifices that covered (atoned) sin. Daily, weekly, annual sacrifices i.e. Day of Atonement

Heb 9:22 *'without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness'*

Heb 10:4 *'it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins'*

Heb 9:11-12 *'But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come.....Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.'*

1 John 4:10 *'This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins'*

OT constantly pointed towards a new day, a better day, a NEW COVENANT:

"take eat, this is My body which is broken for you,....this cup is the new covenant in My blood" (words of Jesus, at the Last Supper)

Jesus was the final sacrifice- the High Priest who offered His own blood, for us.

Conclusion:

1. we were created to love God, and to be loved by God
2. sin separates us from God
3. sin must be dealt with, the penalty must be paid
4. Jesus took that penalty upon Himself
5. Salvation is a free gift- nothing more to pay. Will you receive that free gift?

The Exchange of the Cross

Jesus endured our rejection	that we might have His acceptance with the Father
Jesus paid our penalty	that we might be forgiven
Jesus died our death	that we might receive His life
Jesus was wounded	that we might be healed
Jesus bore our shame	that we might share in His glory
Jesus was made a curse	that we might enter into His blessing
Jesus bore our sin	that we might receive His righteousness

Questions for personal or group study:

Read Isaiah chapter 53. In this passage we see a remarkable prophecy (from around 700BC) concerning Jesus sacrificial death on the Cross. From this chapter more than any other he learned that the calling of the Messiah was to suffer and die for human sin, and in so doing, be glorified. The person revealed in these verses is commonly referred to as the 'Servant' (see Isaiah 52:13), and was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

1. How do you see this passage referring to Jesus at the Cross? How do you see the "exchange" that happened at the Cross illustrated in Isaiah 53?
2. What purposes are fulfilled by the Servants suffering? (vv. 4-6)
3. How does the Servant presented here compare with the person you envision when you think of Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
4. God is both the Judge who must punish sin and the Lover who must find a way to forgive sinners. In your own words, explain how God's judgment and God's Love are reconciled?
5. From the list above, what do you need to exchange at the Cross? Pray for this to be reality in your life.
6. Spend time quietly reflecting on the Cross and this study. What do you feel God saying to you? Inviting you to do?
7. Have you received His forgiveness and the gift of eternal life? If not, consider praying the following prayer:

Father in Heaven,

I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life, please forgive me.

I choose to turn from everything which I know is wrong.

I confess that Jesus Christ you are Lord. That you are the Son of God

and that you died on the Cross to take away my sin. I make a decision today to choose Jesus to be my Savior and my Lord. I ask that you fill me with your Holy Spirit, helping me to forgive and love others as you have forgiven and loved me.

I ask this in Jesus name. Amen