

THE LAMB OF GOD SLAIN

Good Friday – Various Scriptures

A. INTRODUCTION

As I mentioned last Sunday, I really enjoy the Easter because this is the week where we put the spotlight directly on Christ's sacrificial work and resurrection. All eyes are on Christ. All eyes are on the most important event this world has ever seen and ever will. And we need to hear the story of our Lord's death and resurrection more than just in passing reference. There's just something about getting into the details of the gospel accounts that we need in our hearts and minds and being, to encourage us and strengthen our faith. We need to be reminded how great a salvation we have! How wondrous it was and is.

I noticed this last week while I was living in an airport, having flights cancelled and trying to get home after the snowstorm, that those who have been around the airports a lot and fly a lot, have really lost the wonder of flying. They close their eyes, put on headphones, and close the window so they can't see out. And I'm not saying I've never done that or don't, especially on a long flight, but for the most part, I'm like a puppy with my head out the window while we're flying! I'm just always amazed by the fact that we get to soar above the clouds and at 500 miles an hour and 30,000 feet! Can you imagine how someone living 100 years ago would react to today's methods of travel? Or the Wright Brothers who invented the first airplane? You think the automobile was great and the intercontinental railroad was fast, just wait till you fly to Dallas from Nebraska to get to Illinois and do it in a few hours! Or travel to Atlanta, Georgia from Illinois to get to Denver! If they heard that, they wouldn't believe it. And if we could go back and bring them to the future, they'd be exhilarated and overjoyed with economy class! What I'm trying to say is that more we get used to something, the more it loses its luster. Something that was once a great source of joy and wonder, becomes sort of commonplace for us and we forget how wonderful it is. As believers, we've got to make sure that doesn't happen with the gospel and Christ's work for us. Refuse to let it become the same old story and embrace it again as the marvelous work of God that it is. Scripture says, ["The stone which the builders rejected became the chief corner stone. This came about from the Lord and it is marvelous in our eyes."](#)

So tonight we're going to get back into the gospels and walk with Jesus throughout His final moments by reading some selected Scriptures and singing songs in-between and follow it up with a short message and celebrating the Lord's supper together. As a reminder we have been focusing on Christ as the Lamb of God. Last Sunday we saw **Christ as the Lamb of God Chosen** during Palm Sunday. And tonight, we're focusing on Christ as **the Lamb of God Slain**. He is our Passover Lamb.

1. THE PLOT TO KILL JESUS (Matt. 26:1-4, 14-16) – Justin Schefcik

"When Jesus had finished all these words, He said to His disciples, **'You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man is to be handed over for crucifixion.'** Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together in the court of the high priest, named Caiaphas; and they plotted together to seize Jesus by stealth and kill Him.... Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, 'What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?' And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him. From then on he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus.'"

[SONG]

2. THE PASSOVER MEAL WITH THE DISCIPLES (Matt. 26:20-30; Jn. 13:27-31)

“When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, **“Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.”** They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, **“Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?”** Jesus replied, **“The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”** Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, **“Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?”** Jesus answered, **“You have said so. What you are going to do, do quickly.”** And he immediately went out. And it was night. When he had gone out and while they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, **“Take and eat; this is my body.”** Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, **“Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”** When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”

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3. THE PRAYER & ARREST IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE (Matt. 26:36-50, 56; Lk. 22:43-46, 48; Jn 18:4-8)

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, **“Sit here and keep watch while I go over there and pray.”** Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, **“My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”** Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. **“Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?”** he asked Peter. **“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”** He went away a second time and prayed, **“My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”** An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep and exhausted from sorrow and said to them, **“Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners.”**

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, **“Greetings, Rabbi!”** and kissed him. But Jesus said to him, **“Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”** When Jesus asked them who do you seek?” they answered, **“Jesus of Nazareth.”** Jesus said to them, **“I am he.”** And when He said this they drew back and fell to the ground. Then Jesus said, **“I told you that I am he. So if you seek me, let these men go.”** Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. Then all the disciples left Him and fled.

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4. THE INTERROGATION OF THE INNOCENT ONE (Mk. 14:53, 55-65; Matt. 27:1-2, 11-26)

They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. They were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: **“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’”** Yet even then their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, **“Are you not going to answer? What is**

this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” But **Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.** Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” **“I am,”** said Jesus. **“And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”** The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” They all condemned him as worthy of death. Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy!” And the guards took him and beat him.

Early in the morning they led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor. Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “You have said so,” Jesus replied. When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, **he gave no answer.** Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?” But **Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge**—to the great amazement of the governor. Now it was the governor’s custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor. “Barabbas,” they answered. “What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” Pilate asked. They all answered, “Crucify him!” “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!” All the people answered, “His blood is on us and on our children!” Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

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5. THE SCOURGING AND CRUCIFIXION (Matt. 27:27-66; Lk. 23:46; Jn. 19: 31-37)

Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said. They spit on him and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross to a place called Golgotha. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the Jews.

Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him. In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him. From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”** When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge and filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.” And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, and said, **“It is finished! Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit.”** Having said this, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split, and tombs broke open. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. These things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled. As evening approached, there came a rich man named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.

B. ISAIAH'S PROPHECY OF THE LAMB (Is. 53)

As we've been focusing on Christ as our Passover Lamb, there's one thing I want to point out from this that really stands out as far as our Lamb of God is concerned. And it's that He was silent. Listen to what Isaiah prophesied more than 500 years before Christ's crucifixion, in chapter 53, "Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?... Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities, the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

Notice how Isaiah speaks of Him as a lamb. "He did not open His mouth, like a lamb to the slaughter or a sheep before it's shearers." Now I've never worked much with sheep but my neighbor, who lived a mile away, had some – but you never knew when he was working sheep. However, you did know when he was working cattle! Cattle are loud. I don't have to go over to his house to know when he is branding or weaning calves. I can hear it! They're a lot noisier than sheep to begin with. But have you seen a sheep before its shearer though? They're silent. They actually do this 'sulking' thing. If you kind of sit them on their backsides, they just start to sulk. They just forfeit. They give up. They don't move or make a sound. They're just like sack of potatoes; they don't even try to get away. They just subject themselves to the shearer. And that's how Christ is described in the sense that He didn't put up a fight or talk back when He was accused. When they asked Him repeatedly what He did or why they were after Him, He did not respond – not even to a single charge – to the governor's amazement. He could've, but He didn't. He could've called on angel armies to aid Him, but He didn't. He was set on going to the cross. He was subject to the Father's will. You could say He forfeited His right to live and subjected Himself to the hands of sinners. He allowed Himself to be shorn for us.

Whenever Black Friday comes around in November after Thanksgiving, I think of Good Friday, because Good Friday – though it’s probably called good because it’s good for us – is actually a very dark day! It comes with mixed emotions. One almost wants to call it Black Friday because the sky grew dark and the Son takes the weight of our sin and cries out to the Father, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” It almost seemed as if the fellowship of the Trinity could separate at this point. Now our God is immutable and it’s impossible for the Trinity to separate (and some I believe erroneously conclude that) but the darkness of it all is there. This is the real Black Friday.

There is so much that Isaiah prophesied that came true with Christ. He was oppressed and afflicted. He was punished and crushed. He was innocent. He was crucified with transgressors. His spoils were divided. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, though He didn’t deserve to die. And He was buried in a rich man’s tomb. He died so that we could live. He bore our iniquities, so that we could be forgiven. And He did it all humbly and quietly, like a lamb led to the slaughter, **BECAUSE HE LOVES US THAT MUCH. This is sacrificial love. If any man doubts the love of God, let him look to the cross. He loves you enough to die for you and loves you with an unchanging love.** Isaiah 49:16 says He has inscribed your name on the palms of His hands. Your name! We often hear about how God so loved the WORLD He gave His only Son... but it’s also more personal than that! For God so loved YOU that He gave His only Son.

This is our loving Passover Lamb who sacrificed Himself for us. When the Lord sees that we have applied the blood of Christ to ourselves through faith in Him, His judgment passes over us, as it did at the Exodus. Israelites slaughtered a lamb in Egypt and put it on their doorposts and when the judgment of the Lord saw the blood, He passed over that household. But the Egyptians weren’t covered and protected by the blood. They weren’t saved from the judgment. However, we’re saved from God’s judgment when we apply Christ sacrifice to our life by trusting Christ as our Savior. We’re saved by the blood of the Lamb. And now being saved, our souls continually feed on His sacrifice like they fed on the Lamb in the Exodus. His body and His blood and are now what feeds our souls – His sacrifice. We come back to the cross and take in again, and again, and again. Every time we sin or are tempted to get proud, we come back to His sacrifice being sufficient.

When we come to the communion table, the Lord’s supper, first thing we do is remember that we’re remembering He is sufficient. Secondly, we remember to walk Him in light of that, because what He went through to save us was no trivial thing. Peter said, *“Conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life...but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.”* So we are to honor Christ’s sacrifice by walking in obedience and repentant hearts. Let’s do that now.

C. SPECIAL SONG AND COMMUNION

In so doing, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes!

And don’t forget that Sunday’s coming!