

Jesus, the Son of God

Sermon – Maundy Thursday April 1, 2021

“Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29

When you were asked if you are saved – what was your reaction or how did you answer that very serious question? Saved.

To be saved basically means that we accept Jesus Christ as the **Lamb of God** and His free gift of eternal salvation.

I think Maundy Thursday is the best evening to see in a deeper level why we call our Saviour "the Lamb of God".

John the Baptist preached about the Messiah, who was sent by God to wash off our sin and to make us perfectly clean, and worthy to inherit the eternal glory in heaven.

"John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" (John 1:29)

According to the law, once a year, every Jewish person had to take a totally perfect, clean lamb to Jerusalem and sacrifice it for their sin.

I am inviting you to put yourself in this role of taking the lamb to the altar of God to present as your sacrifice. You are on a journey to Jerusalem.

- Let's imagine that you picked this lamb from your backyard, which you fed for at least a year.
- Since it was your lamb, you love your lamb, since it grew up in front of you, like your pet.
- You gave him a name and, when you called him, he followed you.
- You watched him as he played and jumped around your property.
- Now, you caught him because you will take him on a long journey to Jerusalem to be sacrificed for **YOUR SIN**.
- You are watching him as he looks at you.
- You know that your lovely lamb will die because **you** sinned.

As you arrive at the temple in Jerusalem, as the ritual goes, you are lined up to wait for your turn.

- As you reach the priest, you lay your lovely lamb on the table.
- The priest who is leading the sacrifice is asking you to lay your hand on your lamb and hold it tight.
- Your lamb is crying.
- Your lamb is looking at you, asking you with his eyes: why am I here? What is happening here?
- Then the person who officiates the sacrifice will cut the throat of the lamb with one move, and you have to hold your lamb, until all its blood drains.
- As the lamb is fighting for his life, he is shaking, trembling, wanting to escape.
- Your lovely lamb is asking you – “Why do you do this to me?” WHY???
- He is looking into your eyes, asking: WHY? WHY? WHY?
- He cries as he is losing his strength and slowly gives up.
- He dies for you, because you are a sinner.

When an animal was offered, its blood was shed on the altar. Those who offered sacrifices understood that the animal being sacrificed was a symbolic representation of themselves and their desire to offer their own lives to God. The lamb represented innocence and gentleness. Because the sacrifice was meant to represent the purity of intention of the person or people who offered it, lambs had to be without physical blemishes.

God said that the punishment of sin is death. God ordered this cruel and horrible religious act that His people would understand the weight of their sin. Because of the lamb’s death and his blood, your sins are washed over.

In the Old Testament, God complained many times that, after a while, most of his people presented these sacrifices automatically and their heart was not it. They had no feelings towards the lamb, and they did not care about their sin anymore. They were holding the lamb until he died, and walked home like nothing happened.

This is why God says in Hebrews 10:4: “*For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.*”

This horrible idea of a sacrificial system might sound very strange to us today, but the concept of payment or restitution is still one we can easily understand. We know that the wage of sin is death and that our sin separates us from God.

The Bible teaches that we are all sinners and none of us is righteous before God. Because of our sin, we are separated from God, and we stand guilty before Him. Therefore, the only hope we can have is if He provides a way for us to be reconciled to Himself, and that is what He did in sending His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross. Christ died to make atonement for sin and to pay the penalty of the sins of all who believe in Him.

When Jesus is called the Lamb of God, it is referring to Him as the perfect and ultimate sacrifice for sin. He came from heaven to sacrifice Himself, to die on the cross for you and for me.

God is calling us tonight again to believe in Christ as we journey with Jesus on this Maundy Thursday evening, as He shares His last Supper with His disciples. Accept His scarification. Accept what He did for you. Include Him in your life and let Him be your King.

Even when He suffered indescribable pain, Jesus prayed for you. He died for you, to SAVE you.

On Good Friday, God provided the offering that atones for our sin. God the Father was the person who sacrificed His only Son on the cross. God was holding Jesus' body until His blood flew down on the cross to wash away your sin. As you were trembling when I asked you to imagine sacrificing your loved lamb, God was trembling around the cross when He witnessed the death of His son.

“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed ... but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.” ~ 1 Peter 1:18-21. Since Jesus Christ died for you and for me as the perfect Lamb of God, so we are cleansed, we are forgiven and for us the gates of eternal glory are open. Praise be to God alone. Amen