

Easter Series 4 - Good Friday

Intro

We have talked about the sacrificial system in Leviticus. This system taught the Israelites that God can be approached only with the blood of a worthy substitute. However, none of the animals offered in these sacrifices could, in themselves, take away a person's sin or truly pay the debt for sin. But by offering these sacrifices in faith, the people of the Old Testament demonstrated their faith in God and their future hope Christ, the superior, once-for-all sacrifice, the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world. The reason it matters to look at the the sacrifices of the Old Testament is to show how us the real cost Sin has and the way that God offers redemption and reconciliation throughout the blood of a substitute.

We also talked about The Passover which is the most important event in Old Testament history. It was a turning point, a defining moment for the Jewish people. Everything changed for them with Passover. God rescued, preserved, and called them out to be His people in their own land. Immediately upon their departure from Egypt, He instituted the Feast of Passover (Feast of Unleavened Bread) as an everlasting memorial to their deliverance. God set up a tradition for Israel to intentionally remember what He had done for them in the Passover and Exodus.

Passover Instructions in order to escape the death of the 10th plague:

- One male lamb without blemish per house
- Bring lamb in on 10th day of the month
- Kill lamb on 14th day of the month at midnight
 - (according to our clock that would be 12:00am on 15th day)
- Paint blood on their house
- Roast the lamb whole
 - Nothing was broken or wasted

Last week we talked about the Triumphant Entry or Palm Sunday, which we celebrated this past Sunday. This was the 10th day of the month and was the beginning of the Passover celebration. It is not mistake that on the very day Jews were bringing their own passover lamb into their homes that Jesus our greater passover lamb made his entry into Jerusalem. Today we are going to talk about the events that happened on the following Thursday and Friday of that week. Traditionally this Friday is known as Good Friday, however in reality there is very little that is good about the events of that day. It is only because of the resurrection that we can look at what happened and call it good. Today we are going to ponder and think deeply about what Jesus went through on our behalf and why we can call that good.

Passover With The Disciples

Luke 22:7-13

Passover with the disciples

7 Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. 8 So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." 9 They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" 10 He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters 11 and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' 12 And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." 13 And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

- Palm Sunday was the 10th day of the month
- This is now the 14th day of the month
- Jesus makes preparations to share the Passover meal with his disciples
- He celebrates this occasion with them in the same way they would have with their families growing up

Luke 22:14-23

The Lord's supper

14 And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. 15 And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." 17 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. 18 For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. 21 But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. 22 For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" 23 And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

- This is the last time Jesus has with His disciples before His death and He knows this
- His desire was that the last time He had with them was to share this ceremonial meal with them
- He is establishing a new covenant and rewriting the purpose of the Passover
- Now we (Christians) remember and celebrate what God did with communion (The Lord's Supper)
- In the same way God wanted Israel to intentionally and regularly remember what He did for them in Egypt God wants to intentionally and regularly remember what He did through the death of Jesus.
- Judas, the one who would betray Jesus, also shared this meal

Jesus' Betrayal and Arrest

Mark 14

Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

43 And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. 44 Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard." 45 And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him. 46 And they laid hands on him and seized him. 47 But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. 48 And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? 49 Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled." 50 And they all left him and fled.

- Judas comes with a mob armed with swords and clubs and betrays Jesus with a kiss
- One was ready to fight for Jesus, he does this because Jesus was unjustly been arrested, this was not fair
- However, Jesus stops further violence, heals the amputated ear, and allows Himself to be taken away
- All of his followers fled, leaving Jesus to go through the following events alone, without even a friend to defend Him
- This was the same night the Jews would have sacrificed and remembered the Passover in their own homes.

Peter Denies Jesus

Luke 22

Peter Denies Jesus

54 Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. 55 And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. 56 Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." 57 But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." 58 And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." 59 And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." 60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." 62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

- Peter follows Jesus and the mob at distance
- There was a crowd gathering to see what was happening, Peter is obviously among them
- When Peter is recognized three times as one who was with Jesus, three times He denies even knowing him.
- All of this happens in way that Jesus was able to see and know Peters betrayal

Jesus is Mocked

Matthew 27

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

27 Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 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. 30 They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. 31 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.

- Jesus is handed over to the Romans to enact punishment on Him, they were the governing authority and the only ones capable of "legally" putting Him to death
- They mock, spit, and torture Jesus for the very thing that He is

Luke 22

Jesus Is Mocked

63 Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. 64 They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" 65 And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.

- Before He was crucified they further tortured him, mocking His all knowing divinity
- See this movie play out in your mind, completely innocent, miracle working Jesus bullied by the soldiers on duty that day.

Jesus is Crucified

Luke 23

Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified

18 But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”— 19 a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. 20 Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, 21 but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” 22 A third time he said to them, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” 23 But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. 24 So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. 25 He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

- Jesus is confirmed innocent by Pilate the governor of the land
- Yet the crowd demands they release Barabbas a guilty man who justly deserved the death penalty
- Jesus’ innocent life is traded for the guilty life of Barabbas

Matthew 27

38 Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. 39 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!” 41 In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 42 “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” 44 In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

- Jesus is hung on the cross with two other criminals
- The hands that healed the sick and the blind were pierced with nails meant to punish the worst of criminals
- The mock Jesus, telling him to save himself. He could raise the dead, He had the ability to escape the pain of the cross, He had the ability to do exactly what they were teasing Him to do
- Yet He willingly takes their shame and insults while enduring excruciating pain

Jesus Dies

Matthew 27

The Death of Jesus

45 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. 46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

48 Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. 49 The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

John 19

The Death of Jesus

28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” 29 A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

- This is the actual physical death of Jesus
- Think of this image and the cost that sin has, similar to the image of OT sacrifices.
- Jesus said “It is finished” the payment for sin has been satisfied

John 19

Jesus' Side Is Pierced

31 Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. 35 He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. 36 For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” 37 And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

- Jesus side was pierced proving that He was in fact dead, He did not faint or pass out in some way. His heart had stopped and His wounds were not survivable.
- Jesus' body remained whole just as the Passover lamb was to be sacrificed and roasted whole.

Jesus is Buried

John 19

Jesus Is Buried

38 After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. 39 Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. 40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. 41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. 42 So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

- Jesus, had done many miracles taught great lesson throughout his life
- Despite this He didn't even get a public funeral
- His body had to be secretly acquired to be buried in borrowed tomb because it was close and convenient.

This was God's Plan

Isaiah 53

1 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? 9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. 11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

- This is a prophecy predicted the suffering of our savior, it was God's plan all along
- He had to endure all the pain, all the shame, all the mocking, all of the betrayal, our sin cost that much
- There is more to the story, this is not the end, Sunday is coming! But for know behold and contemplate the cost of sin and the length Jesus was willing to go to save you from this type of death

Discussion Questions

- What is your initial reaction after reading through and hearing the events of Good Friday?
- Thinking about everything Jesus went through, what part has the most affect on you? Why?
- Jesus shared his last meal with Judas knowing that he would betray him soon, what does that say about Jesus' love for Judas, the other disciples, and even yourself?
- When they came to arrest Jesus one of his drew his sword and was ready to fight for Jesus, why do you think that was his reaction?
- What is your reaction when Jesus tells him to stop the violence and turned himself over to the mob?
- Why do you think all of the disciples fled in away in fear after Jesus was arrested?
- What feelings do you have when we talked about Peter denying Jesus in a way Jesus could physically watch it happen?
- What feelings do you have when we read about the soldiers mocking and torturing Jesus?
- Why do you think Pilate let a guilty man (Barabbas) go and condemned an innocent man (Jesus)?
- Based on what Pilate knew, do you think He made the right decision?
- What did you think about when we read about Jesus being crucified?
- Why do you think it is important that Jesus died and that He did not faint or pass out?
- *These are questions to ponder and only answer if you feel comfortable* - In what ways has your sins and failures been similar to those that failed and sinned against Jesus?
 - How have you betrayed Jesus like Judas did?
 - Have you ran from Jesus in tough times like the disciples did instead running to Him?
 - Have you ever denied Jesus either with what you say or the way act like Peter did?
 - In what ways have you not taken Jesus as seriously as you should like the soldier or the crowd at the cross?
 - Have your words or actions made a mockery of who Jesus is?
 - What have you done that deserved punishment like Barabbas deserved punishment?
 - What part did your sins and failures play in sending Jesus to the cross?
- *After giving some time to reflect on the things above ask* - How does it make you feel knowing Jesus suffered all of this pain and indignity for your sin taking your place of punishment?