

3-28-2010, COTR Texarkana

Title: Redemption's Story

Purpose: Declare the story of Redemption and provoke people to follow Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Spiritual Truth: The cross is the only hope for the human race.

Text: Jn 19:30, Mk 10:45

Topic: Redemption, Cross, Easter, Blood

Redemption's Story

I. Introduction

A. Video: Jesus Christ of Nazareth

B. It is finished

1. Center screen picture of Jesus with text, "It is finished"
2. John 19:30 (NKJV)
³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, **"It is finished!"** And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.
3. He didn't say "I am finished". He said "It is finished".
4. What did he mean when He said, "It is finished"? What did He complete? What had He done?
 - a. Ancient receipts for taxes have been recovered with the same word, *tetelestai*, written across them, meaning "paid in full."
 - b. He meant His redemptive work was completed. Mankind's greatest problem had been solved. The power of sin had been broken and forgiveness for sin was made available to all people.
 - c. The way had been made to reconcile God and man.
 - d. OT prophecy about His suffering had been fulfilled.
 - e. OT ceremonial law was abolished.
 - f. Satan and Sin had been defeated.
 - g. A new world order had begun called the KOG.
 - h. "It is finished" was a cry of victory.

C. Christ's death redeemed us from sin and Satan's power.

1. The work of man's redemption and salvation was completed once for all and its results will be felt for all eternity.
2. Def. redemption: To buy back by payment of a ransom. Freedom from the power of sin had been purchased by Jesus Christ.
 - a. Mark 10:45 (NLT)
⁴⁵ **For even the Son of Man came...to give his life as a ransom for many."**
 - b. Example: kidnappers wanting a ransom to return a child.
 - c. Jesus death was a ransom payment for our sin debt.

D. Why does all this matter and what does it mean to me?

1. I will answer this question today as I tell redemptions story.
2. You will see you why Jesus is different from other religious leaders.

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F. Purpose: Declare the story of Redemption and provoke people to follow Jesus as Lord and Savior.

G. Spiritual Truth: The cross is the only hope for the human race.

II. Redemptions story began before time

A. 1 Peter 1:20 (NLT)

²⁰ **God chose him as your ransom long before the world began**, but he has now revealed him to you in these last days.

1. Christ's death was not an accident or mistake. He was not overpowered by the Romans and Jews. His death was God's plan to save mankind from sin before time began.
2. God in His foreknowledge knew that we would need a Savior. The Creator sacrificed Himself for those He created.

III. Our need for redemption began in the Garden of Eden

A. God had a standard of righteousness He expected man to obey.

1. Genesis 2:16-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of **the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**"

2. God, not man, gets to make the rules that govern the universe.

B. The consequences of Adam and Eve's disobedience were devastating.

1. Genesis 3:4-7 (NLT)

⁴ "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. ⁵ "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." ⁶ The woman was convinced... So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. ⁷ At that moment their eyes were opened, and **they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.**

- a. Satan's lie filled the world with pain and heartache.
- b. God's relationship with man changed at this moment. Everything else that God does in the Bible is to restore our relationship to Him.

2. Genesis 3:17-21 (NLT)

¹⁷ And to the man he said, "Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it... ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you

return to the ground from which you were made...²¹ And **the Lord God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.**

- a. Trouble, hardship and death came from satan's gift of sin.
- b. But in the midst of judgment came mercy. The fig leaf wasn't enough to cover them. An animal was killed to cover their naked body and, more importantly, to cover their sin.
- c. God provided a covering for man's sin. An innocent animal was killed; its blood was shed to pay the penalty for man's sin. The animal was a substitute. Its death provided atonement, i.e. payment/ covering for their sin so sinful man could be reconciled to a holy God.
- d. Why must blood be shed for sin?
 - i. Leviticus 17:11 (NKJV)
¹¹ For **the life of the flesh is in the blood**, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; **for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'**
 - ii. Hebrews 9:22 (NLT)
²² ...for **without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.**

C. What happened when sin entered the human race?

1. Man's relationship with God changed when sin entered the world.
2. Adam sold the human race to satan. Satan became the god of this world
 - a. Colossians 1:13 (NKJV)
¹³ **He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,**
3. Adam's sin introduced a "sin gene" that affected all his descendents.
 - a. Psalm 51:5 (NLT)
⁵ For **I was born a sinner— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.**
4. Sin brought death, sickness, pain and heartache into the world. It is the reason for all our problems and the reason we will all die. Sin on Judgment Day will send people to hell. One day I will face the prospect of eternal judgment for my sin.
5. Sin made it necessary for Jesus to go to the cross.

IV. Redemptions story continued under Moses

A. The 1st Passover in Egypt

1. Exodus 12:3-13 (NLT) [Context: God is preparing to free Israel from slavery]
³ ...each family must choose a lamb ...for a sacrifice. ...⁵ **The animal** you select must be a one-year-old male...with **no defects**...⁷ They are to take some of the blood and smear it on the sides and top of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the animal...¹² On that night I

will pass through the land of Egypt and strike down every firstborn son and firstborn male animal in the land of Egypt. I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt, for I am the Lord! ¹³ But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you are staying. **When I see the blood, I will pass over you.** This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt.

- a. The perfect lamb, the blood and divine protection from judgment is a picture of Jesus death on the cross.
- b. The blood of a sacrifice has the power to protect us from God's judgment.\
- c. John 1:29 (NKJV)

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, **“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**

B. The Day of Atonement

- 1. Picture of the tabernacle and mercy seat.
- 2. The OT tabernacle had a special section called the holy of holies where the Presence of God manifested in a visible way. The Ark of the Covenant with the mercy seat was there. It was protected by a thick curtain. Once a year the high priest would enter with the blood of a sacrifice to atone/ cover for the sins of the people so the people could be reconciled to God. This happened every year because the high priest was a sinful man and the blood of animals was not a perfect offering.
- 3. Leviticus 16 (NLT)

² The Lord said to Moses, “Warn your brother, Aaron, not to enter the Most Holy Place behind the inner curtain whenever he chooses; if he does, he will die. **For the Ark’s cover—the place of atonement—is there, and I myself am present in the cloud above the atonement cover...** ¹⁴ Then he must take some of the blood of the bull...and sprinkle it on the...atonement cover. ...

- 4. Hebrews 9:11-12 (NCV) [Context: 1000+years later after the death of Christ]

¹¹ But when Christ came as the high priest...he entered the greater and more perfect tent ... ¹² **Christ entered the Most Holy Place only once—and for all time. He did not take with him the blood of goats and calves. His sacrifice was his own blood, and by it he set us free from sin forever.**

- 5. Mark 15:37-38 (NIV) [Context: Jesus died on the cross]

³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. ³⁸ **The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.**

- a. This signified that mankind can have access into the presence of God without a priest/ mediator. We can have relationship with God when sin is covered according to God's standards of righteousness.

V. **Redemptions story was predicted by OT prophecies**

A. **He would suffer for the sin of others.**

1. Isaiah 53:4-6 (NCV) [Approx. 700 years before Christ was born.]

⁴ But he took our suffering on him and felt our pain for us. We saw his suffering and thought God was punishing him. ⁵ But **he was wounded for the wrong we did**; he was crushed for the evil we did. The punishment, which made us well, was given to him, and we are healed because of his wounds. ⁶ We all have wandered away like sheep; each of us has gone his own way. But **the Lord has put on him the punishment for all the evil we have done.**

B. **His hands and feet would be nailed to the cross.**

1. Psalm 22:16 (NIV) [Approx. 1,000 years before Christ was born.]

¹⁶ ...a band of evil men has encircled me, **they have pierced my hands and my feet.**

C. **He would be beaten.**

1. Isaiah 50:6 (NCV)

⁶ **I offered my back to those who beat me. I offered my cheeks to those who pulled my beard...**

D. **His prayed for the people who killed Him.**

1. Isaiah 53:12 (NCV)

¹² ...**He willingly gave his life and was treated like a criminal. But he carried away the sins of many people and asked forgiveness for those who sinned."**

VI. **Jesus saw his death on the cross as the climax of redemptions story.**

A. **Matthew 16:21 (NLT)**

²¹ From then on **Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things...He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead.**

1. It was necessary because man had a need he could not meet. Jesus Christ met God's standards for a perfect sacrifice to atone once for all for the sins of man.

2. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NCV)

²¹ Christ had no sin, but **God made him become sin so that in Christ we could become right with God.**

a. The cross opened the door to my forgiveness and provided a way of escape from God's judgment.

B. **Redemptions story of the cross is embraced by some and rejected by others.**

1. 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NKJV)

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.**

II. **Conclusion**

A. Why does all this matter and what does “Redemptions Story” mean to me?

1. This is the question we began with. This is what Easter is all about. “Redemptions Story” is about all of us.
2. We have a problem we cannot solve or avoid. It is called sin. We can ignore it, deny it or deal with it God’s way but our sin will one day be judged by God.
3. God loved us so much he provided a way out of our predicament. Through faith in Christ’s work on the cross we can be saved from our sin.
 - a. John 3:16 (NKJV)
¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
4. Our eternal destiny hinges on our response to His death on the cross.

B. Souls

1. Have you put your faith in Jesus Christ to save your soul? If not you can do it now.

III. Response

A. Communion

1. Matthew 26:19-28 (NLT)
¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus told them and prepared the Passover meal there....²⁶ As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Take this and eat it, for this is my body.”²⁷ And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, “Each of you drink from it,²⁸ for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many.

B. Join COTR