The Body, The Blood, & the Cross

Isaiah 53:4-7

Good Friday Service - 4/10/20 & 4/7/23

Tonight, we are going to look, in detail the story of Jesus and His death. As we tell the story, we reflect on Isaiah’s prophecy of the One who wore our shame and sins on his shoulders. We’ll see tonight how this loving Savior took care of our unattainable needs with His Body, Blood, & the Cross.

Isaiah 53:4-7

*Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! 5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. 6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. 7 He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.*

**The Body**

*Luke 22:39-44*

*39 Then, accompanied by the disciples, Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives. 40 There he told them, “Pray that you will not give in to temptation.” 41 He walked away, about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, 42 “Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” 43 Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him. 44 He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.*

The 1st place we see Jesus’ body begin to break down is in the Garden of Gethsemane.

* What Jesus saw in Gethsemane caused him such strain that he began to literally sweat great drops of blood. This is only mentioned in the book of Luke. In the other gospel accounts, we see the level of Jesus’ anguish: “*My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death”* (Matthew 26:38; Mark 14:34).
	+ Luke was a Dr. and wanted the readers to know that Jesus was truly suffering. This is a very real, rare condition called Hematidrosis. This condition occurs in extreme levels of stress and the individuals sweat can look like blood, bloody sweat, or sweat with droplets of blood in it.
* Here is Jesus—the eternal Word of God, who spoke the world into existence and brought the dead back to life—so horrified at something he sees that his capillaries burst, nearly causing his death even the Garden.

What had he seen that troubled him so? The real question is what he had **not** seen. You see, he called out to God his Father, as he had numerous times throughout his life, but this time WAS DIFFERENT...he got no response. He refers to God as Abba, a term of closest intimacy. He returns 3 times in prayer, but, for the first time in all of eternity, the Father was silent. This caused Jesus a feeling of hopelessness & loss, and under this extreme stress His physical body begin to break down.

Mark 15:15-20 TLB

*5 So to pacify the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified. 16 The soldiers took Jesus into the courtyard of the governor’s headquarters (called the Praetorium) and called out the entire regiment. 17 They dressed him in a purple robe, and they wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head. 18 Then they saluted him and taunted, “Hail! King of the Jews!” 19 And they struck him on the head with a reed stick, spit on him, and dropped to their knees in mock worship. 20 When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified.*

John 19-31:33 & 36

*1 It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn’t want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath, because it was Passover week). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. 33 But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn’t break his legs...36 These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, “Not one of his bones will be broken,”*

Though not a single bone of our Lords body was broken as to fulfill scripture, his skin and flesh were torn and broken by the blows from rods and fists, by whippings and scourging’s, by thorns, nails, and the spear.

We must never forget, or negligent the fact, that Christ allowed His body to be broken down...FOR US! For the healing of OUR sicknesses and infirmities. Isaiah is quoted “By His Stripes We Are Healed. Though there is no scriptural evidence that the lashes received by Christ each represented some known number of diseases that afflicted humanity in His time, we can take God at His Word knowing that by His stripes we are healed. But can I add a 2nd truth to this? Truth is this, “by His stripes”, doesn’t just mean for our physical bodies, but also claims our souls. Jesus died for the greatest human disease that man could ever suffer. The helplessness of sin and the need for redemption from its condemnation and eternal separation from God.

This is the principal purpose for which Jesus died.

**The Blood**

*Jesus says in Matthew 26:28 - “For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”*

Mark 15:25-32 NLT

*25It was about nine o’clock in the morning when they nailed Him to the cross.*

* Blood dripped from Jesus’ body from the whips of the cat of 9 tails, crown of thorns shoved into his scalp, cuts and bruises from the slaps and fists of the soldiers, and finally the nails that were driven into his hands (wrists) & feet.

The blood of Jesus is so important, as it is the foundation of our redemption. Jesus Christ dying on the cross and his blood shed was the only acceptable payment for our sins. Nothing else could/would save us.

* Peter writes in 1 Peter 1:18-19, *18 “For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. 19 It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.”*

The Blood of Jesus Christ is absolutely the most precious thing God has ever offered us. The Blood is our everything! Blood brings life and Jesus’ blood brings eternal life! The blood was shed to wash, cleanse, purify, & heal our hearts and present us blameless to a God! It protects us from all evil, harm, & death! It’s His blood restores our hearts to God. That’s the only way to God...Through Jesus and His shedding of His blood –

**The Cross**

John 19:25-30

*28 Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” 29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. 30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

Why was the Cross necessary?

* **The Cross shows us the depths of our sins.**
	+ Today you may not realize what sin is in the sight of God–how deeply it offends Him and how it separates us from Him.
		- What is sin? Sin is coming short of God’s righteousness. God is righteous and holy and cannot look upon sin, thus why we turned His back on Jesus when our sins were upon Him.
			* A diamond may be perfect to the natural eye. But if you take it to a specialist and he looks at it through a glass, he can see the defects in it. God looks at us that way. Because of sin, we are defected. Romans 3:23 says “all have sinned. We have all come short of God’s requirement.” There’s a penalty for sin and the Bible says, the wages of sin is death.
		- The Cross says, “You are a sinner. You are under the sentence of death, with no hope” That means spiritual death, eternal death. No Hope, no chance of eternal life.
* **The Cross is our Pardon.**
	+ It’s a pardon from death for all of us, all who deserve to die because of our sin, our rebelliousness, our wrongs. None of us deserves to be saved. None of us deserve to go to heaven. But 1 John 4:8 says God is love. God is graceful and merciful.
		- Grace means getting something that you don’t deserve. Grace is undeserved favor of God toward man. toward you & me!
		- Mercy is NOT getting what we deserve. Mercy is extended everyday toward you from a loving God.
* **Finally, The Cross also shows us The Love of God**
	+ God through the Cross is saying this evening, “I love you. No matter what you have done–how bad you have been–I love you.” And the death of Christ is what makes this Good News. God is saying to you this very moment, “I love you. I forgive you because of what my Son, Jesus, did on the cross for you!” I willingly paid the price you could never pay, in order for you to have a relationship with me...to have life and life abundant!

The cross is not only where our sin is paid for, but its where the devil is conquered. Because of the broken body of Christ, by the shedding of His blood, and the necessity of the Cross, God offers you a pardon today and your sins can be washed away before you leave this service this evening. By these things He offers you forgiveness; He offers you assurance of Heaven. And that can happen right here tonight. Romans 5:8 says, “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:8

**Closing**

So why do we call this Good Friday? Honestly, we just reflected on things that were horrible & unthinkable; things that this man Jesus went through on this day. And then He died on a cross...some may wonder why is it called Good Friday?

Well, the real truth is...if there was no crown of thorns shoved upon His head, no beatings or ripped out beard, no nails piercing his hands and feet, no spear tearing into His side, NO BROKEN BODY, NO BLOOD, NO CROSS, & NO DEATH, then we would have no HOPE and have NO SALVATION tonight! We’d be in the same deathly state we were in before this day. It’s by His death, Jesus became the final and complete sacrifice for our sins.

You see, we cannot erase our guilt, nor can we overcome our sins by any good deeds that we do. Without the Christ His blood and the Cross, I’m on a one-way track to death and hell, but Christ did what we could never do for ourselves. By choosing to die a horrible criminal’s death for us and by the blood He shed that Friday, He gave us an opportunity to obtain salvation by believing on Him by faith, confessing our sins and allowing that precious blood wash away my every sin!! Then as we put our faith in Him, we are given Life, and Life more abundant; saved from a most certain death & eternity separated from God in a very real Hell.

The BROKEN BRIDGE to Gods heart was repaired as Jesus uttered the words... “IT IS FINISHED”! and because He finished it... it was really for OUR GOOD & it is a GOOD FRIDAY for those who will accept this truth & Him as their Savior!

**Prayer**

God, all our sin, all our hatred, all our violence, all our indifference, all our neglect, came together in that dark hour when they snuffed out the light of your goodness, when they crucified your Son, our Lord. And tonight, we remember.

God, all your love, all your compassion, all your goodness, all your forgiveness, came together in that life and by dying, your unconditional love was showed, when they crucified you Son, our Lord. And tonight, we remember.

God, all of his story, all of human history, all our story, repeats itself where hate meets love, where injustice meets justice, where despair meets hope, death meets life, and we dare to believe we were there when they crucified your Son, our Lord and that this is the way to truth, life, and our salvation. And tonight, we remember.  Amen

**Communion**

Matthew 26:26-28

*26 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.”*

*27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*

Closing Remark:

Remember though we have reflected on the horrendous events of Friday, let me encourage you that this story is TO BE CONTINUED!!!

We pray you’ll come back Sunday Morning at 10am to see the 2nd portion of the story!