



Sermon Discussion Questions  
May 5, 2024

## SACRIFICE STORY

Note: This week we have a guest speaker, Richard Rivenbark, missionary to South Asians from Global Gates. Therefore, this week's study will be somewhat different from the normal guide since we do not have all the details of his planned sermon. Your normal study will return next week.

1. **Opening Discussion Questions** (in a group setting you may only want to do one of these)
  - a. We all marvel at some of the stories of heroic sacrifices people have made in times of disaster or accidents. Is there one that sticks out in your mind as particularly noteworthy? Share it with the group and discuss what made it stand out?
  - b. "Sacrifice" is a word that gets used rather liberally in our society. We talk about people saying he/she made a great sacrifice to..." but often the act was either not that great or was just the expectation of a job or parenthood. Discuss what is required to truly qualify as a sacrifice.
2. **Study/Discussion Points:**
  - a. **Sunday Afternoon** – As soon as possible after listening to the sermon set aside some time to ponder these questions prayerfully:
    - i. What one thing most stood out to you in this sermon?
    - ii. What new truth did you learn or of what truth were you reminded?
    - iii. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?
    - iv. This was a sermon by a missionary. After hearing it was there something you feel God is leading you to do to become more involved in missions – either locally or in another part of the USA or world?
    - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
  - b. **Monday**
    - i. Since the Bible is a progressive revelation of God's plan for the redemption of mankind sometimes it helps to begin a study by first reading the end (it's not a mystery). Consider these three passages. What important principle do they present?
      1. Matthew 26:28

2. Ephesians 1:7
3. Hebrews 9:22
- ii. Now read God's response to Adam and Eve's original sin in Genesis 3:14-21.
  1. How did God demonstrate grace to Adam and Eve in this passage?
  2. What do you see as significant in verse 21? Compare it to Isaiah 61:10 and Zechariah 3:3-4?
  3. What must have been necessary if animals "donated" their skins to God for the garments?

c. *Tuesday*

- i. Read the account of Abraham's testing in Genesis 22:1-14.
  1. First, settle in your mind if Abraham was being tempted or tested – read James 1:12-16.
    - a. What is a core component of all temptation (verse 14)?
    - b. Is there any indication in Genesis 22:1-4 that Abraham wanted to sacrifice his son? Which verse clearly indicates the opposite?
  2. How was Abraham's test similar to the test Adam and Eve failed? How was it different?
- ii. After demonstrating his obedience, God provided Abraham a ram for the sacrifice.
  1. According to verse 8 what did Abraham expect God to provide? According to verse 14 what did God provide? What lesson might we take from this?
  2. In what ways do you think this might symbolize what God does for us?

d. *Wednesday*

- i. Today start by reading the account of the first Passover in Exodus 12:1-14.
  1. In what way do these instructions to the Israelites resemble the tests that Adam and Eve and Abraham were given?
  2. Imagine that you were just one of the ordinary Israelites who received these strange instructions, not from Moses personally but second or third hand, what might your reaction been – remembering that this was before the Exodus and the giving of the Law?

3. God was about to put every first born in Egypt to death except those protected by what?
  - a. According to Romans 6:23 why was this a perfectly just action?
  - b. How does Leviticus 17:11 provide that for first-born Israelites being spared?
- ii. The Passover presents many images of what Christ would do for us. What are some of the pictures or similarities you see?

e. **Thursday**

- i. From yesterday's reading about Passover, what was the requirement for the Passover lamb (Genesis 12:5a)?
- ii. You may have made the observation that the Passover lamb was symbolic of Jesus. How is this confirmed in John 1:29?
  1. What would have to be true about Jesus for Him to be "the Lamb"? How do 2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 4:15, 1 Peter 2:22, and 1 John 3:5 show his qualification to be "the Lamb"?
- iii. The title "Lamb of God" has great significance for our eternal future. Read Revelation 5 and meditate on what is said about the Lamb. Based on that chapter how do you think our adoration and worship of Christ stack up?

f. **Friday**

- i. Today, start by reading Romans 3:21-26, in several translations if possible, paying particular attention to verse 25 which describes the nature of Christ's work on the cross for us?
  1. What is your main take-away from these verses?
  2. How does verse 25 point back to Leviticus 17:11 that was read Wednesday? How important was it that Christ shed His blood in a sacrificial death (see Acts 20:28; Romans 5:9; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:12-14 & 13:12; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 1:5b)?
  3. Which of the above verses do you find most enlightening and meaningful?
  4. How does verse 25 take us all the way back to Adam and Eve?
- ii. Now read Romans 6:1-5.
  1. If you have been cleansed by Christ's blood what should have changed?
  2. Even though we are cleansed by his blood if we are a Christian, we know that despite our best efforts we go on sinning – Read Romans 7:14-20. When we do, what does 1 John 1:9 tell us to do?

- g. *Saturday*
- i. Finish the week by reading and meditating on Colossians 2:13-15 and Hebrews 2:14-15.
    1. What is the common promise in these verses that we obtain because of Christ's death?
    2. When these verses talk about our "death" how do we know it is a reference to spiritual death and not just physical?
    3. Verse 14 in the CSB translations says: "He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations..." What does the CSB wording mean to you? How permanent is the forgiveness?
  - ii. What does the Hebrews passage tell us that the Son had to do in order to secure the forgiveness we enjoy (see also Galatians 4:4; Philippians 2:7-8; 1 Timothy 3:16; and 1 Jn 1:1-2 & 4:2)
    1. Which of the above verses do you find best describes the extent to which God was willing to go in order to redeem mankind?
    2. Notice the description of what happens to Christ's physical body at the end of 1 Timothy 3:16 and in Mark 16:19 and Acts 1:7-9. What does it mean to you that Jesus retains His physical body even now at the right-hand of God?
3. **Application:**
- a. The sacrifice that was made by Jesus that our sins might be forgiven and that our relationship with God could be restored should overwhelm us to the point that we cannot stop praising Him for such a gift. Set aside plenty of time this week to do just that – praising and thanking Him for His sacrifice.
  - b. The final passage in our study, Acts 1:7-9, includes a version of the Great Commission. In the world today there are about 3.6 billion unreached, unengaged people who have virtually no chance of ever hearing of Christ's sacrifice. There are additional billions, including many of your neighbors, who may have heard but still have not accepted the free gift. Spend time praying that God will show you what your role should be in meeting this most urgent need.
4. **Prayer Points:**
- a. Adoration – Psalms 8:1 and 29:1-2
  - b. Confession – Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:8-10
  - c. Thanksgiving – Psalms 95:1-2 and 100:4-5
  - d. Supplications – Matthew 21:22 and John 16:19