



Love's Sacrifice – John 19:16-30 – The Savior Who Died

Yardsale shows have gotten popular on the Discovery Channel

- One night they showed a tomahawk...it was given to a man in North Adams, MA by his grandmother...
 - when he was a boy, he would often play with it out in the woods...chopping on things just like you would expect a boy to do...
 - as it turns it, it had originally come from Philadelphia and was made around 1780-1790...
 - because of the silver engravings, especially a rare Federal style eagle and several medallions...appraiser Bill Guthman declared it to be a national treasure...
 - He set its value at **\$150,000**...and told the owner, **“If you’d known how much it was worth, you would have been more careful when you were playing...”**
- sometimes things are more valuable than they appear...
 - unfortunately that also works in reverse...
 - you may have heard about how one of the originals of the Declaration of Independence was found hidden behind a painting in a flea market frame and sold for 8.1 million dollars
 - so a woman named Dolores on a whim went up to her attic and started hunting around...sure enough, she found this copy of the Declaration of Independence...
 - she said – **“I was stunned when I found this. I thought lightning was going to strike twice.”**
 - as it turns out, so did a lot of other people...
 - Appraiser Ken Gloss explained that they had a barrage of these declarations of independence copies after the valuable one was found...
 - Ken told Dolores her treasure was worth somewhere in the neighborhood of...
25 cents.
- sometimes things are more valuable than they appear, and sometimes they are not...
 - this morning I would like to suggest that there is a topic that many people who call themselves followers of Christ do not like to talk about...
 - they would prefer to have a life where this subject is not mentioned...it holds very little value in their eyes...
 - we’re talking about the subject of death...
- with that in mind, would you open your Bible to John 19?...- **read John 19:16-30**
- the amount of space that is given in each gospel to the events surrounding the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ would indicate that God assigns the highest importance to this subject...it is not necessarily a pleasant topic, but it is certainly a valuable one...
 - maybe for people, regarding this issue, its time for a new appraisal...

- I'd like us to divide our time around these ideas...

I. The Value of Jesus' Death.

II. The Value of Our Death

III. The Implications of Both

I. The Value of Jesus' Death.

- according to the apostle Paul, what we are talking about this morning is truly at the very heart of our faith...
- he said it this way to the Corinthians... **1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,**
- that is the gospel in a nutshell...that's why he had said to them earlier in this book...**1 Corinthians 2:1-2 - And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.**
- so when a person does not consider the death of Christ to be very important or valuable...they certainly have set themselves up against someone like the apostle Paul...this is at the very heart of what it means to know the God of the Bible...
- now, why is His death so valuable?

A. It demonstrated His abundant compassion for you.

- to a person in this culture, one of the most horrible words they could imagine was the word crucified...
 - verse 16 has 11 words in English...but it says volumes about what was transpiring... **John 19:16 - So he then handed Him over to them to be crucified.**
- those nails were like spikes that would be driven through the victims wrists...and feet...
 - this would normally be done while the cross was lying flat on the ground...
 - then the soldiers would lift the cross up with the person on it and as they lifted they would direct it to a hole that had already been dug...
 - when the cross went down into the hole for the post...the slow torture would begin...
- I don't intend to belabor this point...but I want to give us enough details to help us understand what was occurring...in his book **The Murder of Jesus – John MacArthur** explained – **The emperor Tiberius is said to have preferred crucifixion as a method of punishment, precisely because it prolonged the victim's agony without granting relief by death. He believed death was an escape, so in his view execution would really be no punishment, unless the victim had as much mortal agony inflicted as possible before death. Death normally came from slow suffocation. The victim's body would hang in such a way that the diaphragm was severely constricted. In order to exhale, he would have to push up with his feet so that the diaphragm would have room to move. Ultimately fatigue, intense pain, or muscle atrophy would render the victim unable to do this, and he would finally die from the lack of oxygen.**
- and please remember what Jesus had said to His disciples in the upper room as He instituted a practice for His followers we refer to as the Lord's table... **1 Corinthians 11:24 - and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."**

- if that was the only thing we had to say about this subject...it would make the matter of the death of Christ very, very valuable...

B. It paid the wages of sin.

- **Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
- **Hebrews 9:22 - And according to the Law, *one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.***
- that is a major theme in Scripture---from their earliest days a young Jewish boy or girl would have learned this lesson...sin demands a sacrifice...sin demands a sacrifice...
- Christ was willing to pay that price...in the most hideous form possible...because of His love for you...

C. It saves us from God's wrath and reconciles us to Him.

- some might object to that terminology, but that is exactly what Scripture says...
- **Romans 5:9- 11 - Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.**
- and I know some people like to say...well, I don't like to think of God as a God of wrath...that's the God of the OT...
- there's nothing further from the truth...that position fails to understand the holiness of God...we would agree with the writer of Hebrews who said... **Hebrews 10:31 - It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**
- the provision that was made so that a person could go from being an enemy of God, to being His child, is a wonderful, wonderful gift...
- His death truly is precious...
- now what about the person who would say...what if I choose not to believe that?...what if I reject that gift?...where does that road lead?...
- the Bible answers that question...it's called the second death...death squared...
- **Revelation 20:14 - Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.**
- and I realize that too is a concept that is shunned in our culture...but sometimes I think with all of this emphasis on how Jesus will meet your needs, and "what's in it for you", and how can Jesus make your life better?....
 - every so often we need to be reminded that there really is a heaven to be gained, and a hell to be shunned...
 - and the death of Christ, sparing those who have trusted in Him from the wrath to come, is a precious thing...

- I know that many people here are motivated by this...
- we want a God who is Holy...and it doesn't take much to convince us of our own sinfulness...
- so we want to do everything we can to proclaim the good news that the Savior has died for the sins of man...
- **2 Corinthians 5:11 - Therefore, knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...**
 - cf. those serving in the Passion play, inviting friends, etc.—encourage folks to do that this week...

- cf. faithful giving to the community center...not “hellfire and brimstone people” per se, but we are motivated by the truths of Scripture...

- now, how else does the Bible emphasize this topic?

II. The Value of Our Death.

- I want to ask you to turn over to another passage...Romans chapter 6...- for many people, death is the king of terrors...they hate every aspect of the topic...that is truly not biblical thinking...

- read Romans 6:3...

- now the word baptize is used differently in Scripture...and you always have to allow the context to help us understand the meaning...

- this verse is talking about what theologians refer to as “spirit baptized”...being united with Christ the moment you trust Him as Savior...

- it then becomes the picture for water baptism, or believer’s baptism...but the primary focus here is what happens the moment you trust Christ...

- read Romans 6:3-11 [might have to skip 6-10 for sake of time...]

- now you might say...what’s the essence of that?...

A. The crucial doctrine of our union with Christ.

- the Bible teaches us that when a person places his/her faith in Christ...you are united with Him...

- that’s why we often read this wonderful little phrase in the NT...the possibility of being in Christ, and Christ being in you...

- and these verses explain...if you have come to Christ...you too have died...you are no longer the person you were before...

- [cf. II Cor. 5:17 – If any man be in Christ...]

- and for most of us, we’d say...hallelujah to that...

- now the great news is...the Christian message doesn’t stop at death...

C. We are no longer slaves to sin.

- **Romans 6:6 - knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;**

- [develop the issue of being delighted to welcome men and women into our church family regardless of their pasts---because of the power of the death of Christ...could also deal with the overall theme of Reaching New Heights in our Love for the Savior...]....

III The Implications of Both.

A. Christians should learn to value death.

- a summary verse for all we have been talking about today is - **John 12:24 - Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.**

B. Christians do not see death as an end, but as a beginning.

- one of the reasons that people hate death so much is that they believe that’s the end...

- they want to hang on to what they know...even if it’s not particularly good...that habit is distasteful, but it feels like home...

- Romans 6:8 - Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

C. Christians do not have to fear physical death.

I Corinthians 15:54-55 – ...Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your victory? O earth, where is your sting.

D. Christians make death an essential emphasis in our message.

I Corinthians 1:23 – We preach Christ crucified...