

Entry to the Most Holy Place (Mark 15:16-41 & Hebrews 10:19-31)

Good Friday 2018

Just a reminder that there is an outline in the bulletin for you to take down notes if that helps you concentrate

There are Bibles in front of you.

Let me pray for God's help and understanding. Let's pray...

Why Good Friday?

[PowerPoint 1h-Why?]

Because of 2 things that came into the world - way back at the beginning of the Bible - when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's rule - sin and death came into the world

[PowerPoint 1a-Sin and Death]

Sin - is any disobedience of God's rules

Death - God's punishment for sin - Death takes 2 forms - spiritual death in that sin breaks our relationship with God - so we are **spiritually dead** -

And **physical death** - we all must die on this earth one day (unless Jesus comes back in our lifetime)

So because of Adam and Eve's rebellion against God's rule

We all inherit sin and death

As the Apostle Paul puts it in Romans 5:12

[PowerPoint 2-Rom 5:12]

Just as sin entered the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned-
So there must be punishment for sin

And so we're also left with the problem of how do we fix sin and get back into a right relationship with God?

Because we can't stop sinning and we can't fix sin ourselves

Way back to God

So back in the OT - God graciously introduced a sacrificial system as **a way back to Him** - when people sinned

The sinful person brought an animal to be killed by the priest in the temple - and the animal was killed for the person's sin - instead of the person themselves being killed. The guilt and blame for the people's sin was placed on the animal - then the priest sprinkled the blood of the animal on the altar in God's temple to show that the animal is taking the punishment for the person's sin

Why blood?

Because we find in Leviticus 17:11 that God says this to the people and the priests

[PowerPoint 3-Lev 17:11]

For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life

It's the blood sacrifice that brings **at-one-ment** with God

[PowerPoint 4-Yom Kippur]

Furthermore once a year on The Day of Atonement ([Leviticus 23:27-28](#)), also known as Yom Kippur,

There was a solemn holy day when the high priest was to perform elaborate rituals to atone for the sins of all the people. ([Leviticus 16:1-34](#))

The atonement ritual began with Aaron, the High Priest, and subsequent high priests of Israel, coming into the holy of holies in the temple. It was such a solemn occasion that God told Moses to warn Aaron not to go into the Most Holy Place whenever he felt like it, only on this special day once a year, otherwise he would die. This was not a ceremony to be taken lightly, and the people were to understand that atonement for sin was to be done God's way.

Before entering the tabernacle (temple), Aaron was to bathe and put on special garments (v. 4), then sacrifice a bull for a sin offering for himself and his family (v. 6, 11). The blood of the bull was to be sprinkled on the Ark of the Covenant.

Then Aaron was to bring two goats, one to be sacrificed "because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been" (v. 16), and its blood was sprinkled on the Ark of the Covenant. The other goat was used as a scapegoat. Aaron placed his hands on its head, confessed over it the rebellion and wickedness of the Israelites, and sent that goat out with an appointed man who released it into the wilderness (v. 21). The goat carried upon itself all the sins of the people, which were forgiven for another year (v. 30).

The Problem with the OT sacrifice

The problem with the OT sacrifices was

[PowerPoint 5-Problem with OT sacrifices]

- a. The priests making the sacrifices were themselves sinful
- b. The priests making the sacrifices would die one day
- c. Sacrifices were only covering over sin - not getting rid of it once and for all - so sacrifices had to be repeated over and over

[PowerPoint 5a-foreshadow]

These sacrifices foreshadowed some-one who was to come...

One who would also be a substitute for sin - like the animal was

None other than - the perfect man and perfect God - Jesus Christ

Jesus is sinless and can only ever do what God the Father wants

As He taught the things of God

And as He did things that only God could do

And as He performed miracles and forgave people their sins - things that only God could do

And as He claimed to be God and claimed to be King of Heaven and Earth

He was falsely accused of blaspheming - claiming to be God

And He was falsely accused of claiming to be King of the Jews - and so threatening the Roman emperor's rule

But His claims are true

He is sinless - He is God - He is King of Kings

Nevertheless the people wanted Him dead

So Pontius Pilate gave in to the mob rule and sent him to be crucified

Yet - this mob didn't realize this was all part of God's plan to fix sin and death

Jesus becomes the scapegoat with all the sin of the world dumped on Him

He becomes the sacrificial lamb - on the cross

[PowerPoint 6-Lamb]

(pause)

But what a death Jesus had to endure?

Why would God allow Jesus - His beloved Son - to endure such a death?

Three words - Love - Grace - Mercy [Explain]

Jesus the way back to God (Mark 15:16-41)

Jesus death was the ultimate sacrifice - and the way back to God

[PowerPoint 7-Way Back]

As we pick up our NT passage from Mark 15 verse 16

If we look back one verse - v15 - we see Jesus was flogged

The word is scourged [Explain]

Then the soldiers in the Governor's palace dressed Him like a king - they put a crown of thorns on Him - a purple robe for royalty (v17) - and mocked Him - beat Him around the head - and spat on Him

And laughed at as King of the Jews

The irony is - Jesus IS king of Heaven and Earth - the King of Jews and Non-Jews

(pause)

By this stage Jesus can barely stand

In the culture of the day - a person who is condemned to be crucified is supposed to carry their cross through the streets to the place of execution

Why?

As a deterrent to anyone wanting to follow Jesus - or start another cult like Jesus was allegedly doing - people watching would think twice

Seeing someone carrying a cross was designed to scare people into submitting to Roman rule

As Jesus is so weak - from His torture - He can't carry His cross - so Simon from Cyrene carries it for Him

What affect this would have had on Simon - we can't be sure - but Simon's son is mentioned - Rufus - whom the Apostle Paul mentions in Romans 16:13 as a believer - and Simon's wife is also mentioned and Paul saw her as being like a mother to him

Carrying the cross - should also remind us that Jesus requires us to carry our cross - to follow Him - it might not be to die like Him - but certainly to let go

of our lives - and sacrificially follow him and let go of any distractions that take us away from making Him number one priority of our lives

See how Jesus conducts himself on the cross (v25-32)

They offer him wine mixed with myrrh - the myrrh was to help ease the pain - but Jesus refuses the wine - as he made a promise in Mark 14:25 not to drink wine until He's completed His Father's will - and He refuses the pain relief - chooses to suffer for to the end

The soldiers see it as just another crucifixion and they ignorantly cast lots - playing a game - for his clothes (Ps 22:18)

Jesus is charged as being King of the Jews - yet He is the King of ALL

The passers-by mock him thinking he should be able to save himself

The irony is He could have saved himself

But if He did save Himself - He would be disobeying the Father's will - and Jesus - as a perfect man & God cannot do that

If He did save Himself - then sin would not be fixed and there would be no forgiveness - and we would all be headed for Hell - instead of having the offer of Heaven

And the irony is He didn't save himself - so He could save the world from sin - including those killing him - if they care to repent of their sin

Even the religious leaders - chief priest and teachers of the law - mocked Him - what ignorance! They have God's chosen Messiah right before them - but they chose to have Him killed and mock Him instead!

As death approaches - we are told the final moments of Jesus life - in vv33-41

It's dark from noon to 3pm -

Why darkness

It's a dark day?

It's the darkness of sin - everyone's sin being dumped on Jesus

A supernatural event is occurring

At 3pm Jesus utters those famous words in verse 34

[PowerPoint 8-Eloi, Eloi]

Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" – My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?

Those listening would think straight away psalm 22!

Why would Jesus utter those words?

Because - the sin and guilt and punishment of the whole world is dumped on Jesus at that moment

It's excruciating guilt and suffering

And God the Father cannot look at sin - and has turned His back on His beloved Son

[PowerPoint 9-Hab 1:13]

As Habakkuk 1:13 says about God:

Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.

There's also a misunderstanding in Jesus words of Eloi Eloi

Some think He's calling the prophet Elijah - a prophet they knew was to return before the Messiah (Mal 4:5-6) - but what they don't realize is that a) Elijah

came back in the person of John the Baptist who was an Elijah-type figure and
 b) they have misunderstood Eloi as Elijah

As Jesus breathes his last - the curtain in the temple which divides the Holy of Holies (Most Holy Place) is torn in two

[PowerPoint 10/11 Holy and Curtain]

This curtain is 60 feet high (twice the church height) about 30 feet wide - and at least 3-4 inches thick

Only a supernatural event from God can tear this curtain from top to bottom

[PowerPoint 12-Curtain]

This is extremely significant

No longer did people have to bring sacrifices to a priest

Jesus' death is the ultimate sacrifice for sin

Jesus is the sacrifice and the high priest

We can now come directly to Him

Jesus has opened up entry to the Most Holy Place - for us

As Paul says to Timothy:

[Powerpoint 13-1 Tim 2:5]

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, (1 Tim 2:5)

Application (Heb 10:19-22)

How do we apply Jesus' death to our lives today?

Let's turn to Hebrews 10:19-22

[PowerPoint 14-App]

The writer says:

We can **have confidence** to enter that Most Holy Place

Jesus has opened up the way to God

Through his blood and because He is the Great Priest

His sacrifice is once and for all

Because it's perfect - because He is sinless

Because He lives forever - whereas the priests of the OT didn't

So His sacrifice doesn't have to be repeated.

No more sacrifices - thank goodness - it would be messy here - wouldn't it?

What does Jesus sacrifice give us?

Assurance - a rock solid guarantee of **forgiveness**

Hearts sprinkled with his blood - so **we don't have a guilty conscience**

Bodies **washed with the pure water of Jesus** - the Living Water

Response (Mark 15:16-41)

[PowerPoint 15-Response]

Look at the responses we've come across in Mark?

Cruelty from the Romans

Ignorance of the passers-by - mob rule

Blind ignorance of the facts and denial of the truth about Jesus - by the

Jewish leaders and priests

Yet the Gentile Roman Centurion is convinced Jesus is the Son of God - convinced by the manner of Jesus' death and the events that he saw unfold
 These responses are typical of the responses today - aren't they?

- Cruel insults to Jesus and His followers?
- Ignorance?
- Denial of the truth of Jesus and the Bible
- And then those who accept the plain truth of what Jesus did

Response (Hebrews 10:22-31)

What's our response today on this Good Friday?

The writer of Hebrews tells us

[PowerPoint 16-Our Response]

Approach God with sincere hearts - knowing we have assurance

Hold on unswervingly (unwavering = unmoved = standing firm on Jesus rock) to the certain hope we have of forgiveness and Heaven- because God always keeps His promises - not like us

Spur one another - we can't do that if we don't hang out with each other - or if we just turn up at Easter and Christmas?

Instead - meeting together at every opportunity

We don't know the Day Jesus returns - we need to be encouraging each other to share our faith and keep going - encourage each other - when we're lonely, hurting, sick, tired, disheartened, discouraged
 (pause)

Are we talking about God's word at morning tea? Sharing how it has affected us - this may encourage others to do the same?

(pause)

Are we spurring on those who are lonely and housebound? Those who can't get about like they used to? Those who are now in Aged Care? Or is it out of sight out of mind?

(pause)

Yet there is also a serious warning of what our response must not be in v26-31

We just heard the cruel death Jesus endured for us - for our personal sin -

He's taken our blame - our guilt - our death

And the writer of Hebrews says - our response should not be to deliberately go on sinning like they did in the OT and then go and bring another lamb to the priest and that will cover sins up till next time

No - the writer says to go on deliberately and habitually sinning after knowing and believing Jesus died for our sin...

Is a gross insult that insults the Holy Spirit - and it's like we're trampling on Jesus dead body - and that makes us no better than those hurling insults as they watched Him hang there!

And it makes a complete mockery of Jesus' sacrifice - and it will mean that there is no sacrifice that will ever fix our sin - because we've stepped over the line and rejected Jesus sacrifice for us

So the writer warns that such a response as deliberately and willfully continuing in our sin will mean's God's judgment and a raging fire will consume us. That's Hell!

Hell is too late!

(pause)

Conclusion

Instead

Friends our response to Jesus' love on the cross is to respond in love as well

[PowerPoint 17-Love]

As Mark 12:33 says:

³³ To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

Let's pray

Our final hymn says the same response

A New Commandment