

The Proof Of God's Love

- *Matthew 21:33-41*

- **As you talk about the awesomeness of God, there are many characteristics of God that come to mind.**
 - Goodness
 - Love
 - Power
 - Faithfulness
 - Patience
- **There are many things in this life we have to be thankful for, but none greater than the love God showed toward us; but alongside His great love for us, one of the things that means so much to me is His longsuffering & His persistence in reaching out to us.**
- **In our scripture this morning, Jesus gives us a compelling parable of a vineyard owner who had built a marvelous vineyard.**
 - This vineyard had every convenience known in that day.
 - He cultivated the soil, planted the vines, provided hedges and a watchtower for protection.
 - He had built it with a large water tower & even had its own winepress.
 - The owner decided to rent this vineyard to a group of men & when the harvest season came, the owner sent his servants to collect the rent.
 - But instead of collecting the rent, the servants of the master were taken captive by the renters & were severely beaten & killed.
 - The next harvest, the owner sent a larger number of servants to collect the rent that was owed him, but with the same result, they were taken captive & killed.
 - Finally, the owner of the field said to himself, "I will send my only son, surely they will reverence him."
 - But when the renters saw the son coming, they said, "let us kill his son & claim his inheritance." And they captured him & put him to death.
 - Then Jesus turned to the crowd & asked this question, "When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?"
 - In their rage & fury they cried out, "They must be destroyed!"
- **Jesus always had an interesting way of getting His message across. This story He told was in relation to the nation of Israel & their repeated attempt in turning from God.**
 - God had given them the Promised Land,
 - God had set them apart & called them His people,
 - And all God expected from them was their love & allegiance, some fruit from their lives. And though they served Him at times, they continued in their sin.
- **In an effort to turn not only Israel, but all the world from their sin, God sent His servants to get their attention:**
 1. **Noah & the great flood**
 - Why a flood in the first place? Why would God seek to destroy the earth that He had created? It all points back to the sin in the Garden.
 - That small sin had grown to a point till now it has spread throughout the world.
 - Back in Genesis, God called all that He had created "good", but now, sin had destroyed what God created for good.
 - This disgusted God to the point where He was even sorry that He had made man.
 - And as loving as God is, sin had to be dealt with.

- But out of this flood, God saved Noah & his family to replenish the earth after the flood.
- Sadly, though this cleansed the world of sin for a time, man quickly turned against God again.

2. **The Law & Blood Sacrifice**

- The children of Israel had been held captive for many years & God sent Moses to rescue them from the hands of Pharaoh.
- Once set free, they were bound for the Promised Land that God had given to His people.
- All along the way, God provided & met their every need.
 - They never missed a meal,
 - They never went without water,
 - Their clothes were even preserved,
- And you would think that after all God had done for them, they would be listening & following closer to God than ever before. But often times we find them turning their backs on the very One that had set them free.
- And so it was during this time that God set forth the law & the practice of a blood sacrifice, introducing to them the magnificent love that God had for His people not only then, but in the years to come when He would send His Only Son.
- But, the sin of God's people continued.

3. **David & His Psalms**

- David was a unique young man.
 - It's not enough just to say that he loved God.
 - It's not even adequate to say that he committed himself to God.
 - David was a young man that was sold out to God & had a unique confidence & faith in the God that he served.
- David wrote many songs that spoke of God's faithfulness & His power as He delivered His people time and again.
- But even the great man David could not fight against the temptations of sin by himself.
 - He fell into an awful course of events that would bring consequences not only to him & his house, but to an entire nation.
- But even in his darkest sin, God still loved David, and God put a new song in his heart, and through his subsequent songs, he would remind his readers of not just the love of God, but the amazing forgiveness that He freely gives.
- But even though David told of the remarkable grace & forgiveness of God, it was not enough to move the people, b/c we read that they went on & on in their sins.

4. **Isaiah**

- Isaiah was the greatest of all the O.T. prophets.
- He heralded the greatness of God & went to the multitudes over & over again as he urged them to "come to the waters".
- Isaiah went about preaching repentance & the curse of sin in 1:18 when he cried, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."
- But once again, the people would not listen & they continued on in their sin.

5. **Kings of the Earth**

- God made it clear to His people, "if you fall into the sin of idolatry, I will send you into captivity."
- They paid attention for a while, but then they began forgetting about God & soon found themselves turning their backs on the One who had called them His own.

- So then God used the mighty kings of the land to take the people into captivity & slavery.
 - The people searched their hearts during this time & thankfully many of them repented to God & chose to follow after Him.
 - They were delivered & sent back to their land, only to find themselves once again abandoning God.
- **You see, over and over again, God has been patient, He has been longsuffering, not willing that any should perish. But over & over again, the world has continually turned the backs on God.**
- **But then, some 2,000 years ago, the hour struck when God did the greatest thing He has ever done**
- ...

6. **God Sent His Son**

- What a Gift, when God sent His Only Son to be crucified on the cross of Calvary.
 - God sent His prophets unto them, only to have them tortured & killed.
 - They rejected God, turned to their own sins & desires & ignored the warnings from God.
 - And then when God sent His Only Son, the Promised Messiah, surely they would listen to Him, right?
 - But the Bible tells us in John 1:11 – “He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”
 - Instead of receiving God’s Son, they chose to take Him captive, beat Him, mock Him, and lead Him to Golgotha where He willingly gave of His life for the sins of the world.
- Last week we celebrated not only the incredible sacrifice, but the resurrection of our Lord & Savior. Now once and for all, our salvation is complete; our redemption is made full; and God has done all that He can do by giving of His Only Son for our sins.
- Now, if men choose not to accept this gift, there is no more grace, there is no more sacrifice to be offered & they will choose to be lost forever by rejecting Christ.

a. God Sent His Son To Reveal His Heart

- i. All throughout the ages, God had spoke of His great love for His people. But never was man able to see or to know the heart of God.
- ii. But God sent His Son so that through Him we might know God. We might know the heart of God. We might see the great passion & love He has for us.

b. To Become Our Sacrifice

- i. Christ was the final sacrifice for sin.
 1. For years, the sacrifices of lambs upon the altar had been God’s way to offer forgiveness.
 2. According to God’s plan, blood had to be spilt in order for our sins to be forgiven.
 - a. Hebrews 9:22 – “without shedding of blood is no remission.”
- ii. But thanks to the cross, no longer is the sacrifice of lambs necessary. The blood that was spilt on Calvary’s cross is enough to cover the sins of the world.
 1. I John 1:7 – “the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
- iii. I am thankful today that God sent His Son to this earth to be our sacrifice, but I will remind you that ...

c. He Will Send Him Again One Day

- i. God promised in the O.T. that He would send One that would be the sacrifice for all, and He fulfilled that promise through His Son.
- ii. And in the N.T., God tells us over 300 times that His Son is coming again, but He won't come this time as a baby, this time He will return as King of Kings, as the Lion of Judah, to rapture those that have trusted in Him.
- iii. One day, church, I am afraid far sooner than you think, Jesus is coming back.
 - 1. All the dead that have believed in Him will be raised incorruptible.
 - 2. All of those still alive that have trusted in Him will be changed in a moment & we will all meet Him in the air.
- iv. But not all people will be taken up, only those that have been saved & have trusted in the blood of Christ & His death on the cross. These that are left behind will be left for the Great White Throne Judgment where they will be punished & condemned to the Lake of Fire.
- v. The question I have this morning is simply this, "Which group will you be in?"

➤ **As you look back, it is clear to see that God loves this world, and to be more specific, God loves you this morning. He has proven His love over & over again, and the question this morning is, "Will you turn to Him today?"**

- Even though man was created by God in the Garden, man sinned against God. And since that time, everything that God has done has shown His great love for the world. He has been longsuffering and patient as He warned us of sin and its consequences.
- Just like the owner of the field, God has sent His messengers to you time and again, He even sent His Only Son.
- Have you made your preparation? Are you ready should the Lord Jesus return today?