

## Jesus the Ransom

Reality VTA / April 8, 2017

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**Intro:** Happy easter everyone! So good to be with you. and it's my great honour to be able to share with you from the Word of God as we enter into what historically has been termed the **Passion Week of Christ**. This morning we are going to talk about "**Jesus the Ransom**" and I want to preface this as the most beautiful and powerful ransom story in human history.

**Palm Sunday** - Today in the Church calendar is what we refer to as Palm Sunday. We read about it in Matthew 21 as Jesus asks two of his disciples to go and get a donkey and bring it to him.

**Matthew 21:6-11** "The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Hosanna in the highest!"

**The Crowd:** These people are very excited and greatly deceived. They think spiritually they are good with God but physically they are messed up because of the physical rule of Rome so a saviour to them is one that will simply overthrow the government. They think that's Jesus! But Jesus didn't come to over throw the government, he came to set them, and us, free! To pay our ransom and release us from captivity.

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**Transition:** We are held captive to our sin. We are completely alienated from God and find ourselves in bondage. Tracing back to the fall of man in the garden we have broken the relationship we had with God and have become enslaved to, prisoners to sin, and facing death. Which brings us to our topic today...

**Ransom Defined:** "*a sum of money or other payment demanded or paid for the release of a prisoner.*"

- **Movies:** While preparing for this sermon I was thinking of all the great movies there are about Ransoms! Mel Gibson in "Ransom, Russel Crow and Meg Ryan in "Proof of Life" Hostage movies where an unwilling party is snatched and taken by force and held by their captors until the family or friends of the innocent pay off the "Ransom" or monetary demands of the captors.
- We love these kind of movies where there's the innocent victim, the "bad guy" captors and the "Good guy" hero's who save the day and bring the captive home safe and sound.
- **Biblically** however, the word is used a bit different - In fact in the old testament law a ransom is the price owed for the freedom of the one who has committed a treacherous crime. What I found interesting is that it's not as if we are talking about "Bail" where you do something wrong and you go to prison and you pay this fine and get out of jail. No, Ransom always refers to someone who is facing the death penalty.
- **You and I are facing the death penalty...**

### Problem 1: Sin.

- **Romans 1: 18 - 32** Read from Bible
- **Romans 3:23** "*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*"
- Here lies the mess in which we find ourselves. We are all born slaves to sin. We can't get out of it, we cant get away from it. If we are honest we hate ourselves for our sin and are fully

discussed by it, but we are equally blinded by our pride which leads us into thinking we don't really need a saviour at all.

- "I'm a good person" - we tell ourselves.
- Sin analogy of 3 sins a day = 1,095 sins a year = 87,600 sins in our lifetime if we live to be 80...

### Problem 2: The price.

- What's the price to be set free.
  - **Romans 6:23a** "For the wages of sin is death..."
  - There is no amount of money that can pay for our freedom. No amount of success, no amount of "good things," we do, or charities we start or
  - **Psalm 49: 7-15** "No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a **ransom** of him - the **ransom** for a life is costly, **no payment is even enough** that he should live on forever and not see decay. For all can see that wise men die; the foolish and the senseless alike perish and leave their wealth to others. Their tombs will remain their houses forever, their dwellings for endless generations, though they had named lands after themselves. But man despite his riches, does not endure; he is like the beasts that perish. This is the fate of those who trust in themselves and of their followers, who approve their sayings. Like sheep they are all destined for the grave, and death will feed on them. The upright will rule over them in the mornings; their forms will decay in the grave, far from their princely mansions. The Price due for our freedom can never be paid by us with money it can only be paid by blood..."
  - **Hebrews 9:22** "in fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."
  - **Now I want everyone to take a deep breath! INTRO JESUS!!!**
  - **Verse 15 says** "But God will redeem my life from the grave; he will surely take me to himself."
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### Jesus Our Ransom:

- **Hebrews 9:15** "For this reason Christ is mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance - now that he has died as a **ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.**"
- Or in Revelations when the four living creatures and the elders being to sing a new song as they encircle Jesus the Lamb. **Revelation 5:9-10** "And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and **by your blood you ransomed** people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God."
- **Only the Blood of Jesus has the power and authority to pay our ransom and by His death on the cross our debt is paid, our forgiveness is given and our freedom is eternally found.**
  - **Tell the story of the Cross**
  - **\*\*\*Colossians 2:13-15** "When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

### Propitiation Defined: "The atoning sacrifice that turns away the wrath of God forever.

- **\*\*\*Romans 3:23 - 25** "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a **propitiation** by his blood, to be received by faith." ESV
- **Day of Atonement** - One sacrifice, a perfect lamb, took the place of the individual, never a human, they then eat the animal remains symbolising that they should be the ones being

sacrificed, this then temporary enabled them to access God with a partial covering for that year. How much greater then is Jesus than the blood of an animal in that His death was once forever.

**Justification: declared Righteous.**

- Jesus last word son the cross “It is Finished”
  - And now the veil is torn, we have full and complete access to the Father. Our ransom is paid and we are free to run to the arms of our saviour.
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**Conclusion:**

**1. He Traded His life for ours.**

**1. Practical Application:**

1. Identity Message - Greater love has no man that this, that he should lay down his life for his friends.
2. Follow Jesus example: Just as Christ paid our ransom by giving his life for us, now we are called to lay down our lives for others.
3. Mark 10:44-45 **“and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all for even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**
4. Because Jesus gave his life as a ransom for many, great commission, we now go and give our lives to the world.

**2. invitation to receive Jesus - Romans 10:9** **“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”**

**3. Just as we opened this message with Jesus entering Jerusalem with a crowd exclaiming “Hosanna” I want to bring us back there and define that word Hosanna. In the Hebrew what it really means is “Save Please!!”**

1. **This massive crowd was so misdirected and confused about who Jesus was and what He was doing, but you and I have the beauty of hind sight! It’s 20/20! He came to seek and save that which was lost.**