

BFF311 Jesus, the Perfect Sacrifice

Scott Moore: Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: Oh, raring to go. How are you? Last week, I got to teach my first class in a ministry called, Bible2Schools.

Bible2Schools is a one-hour class offered to students in the public schools. If they want to, they can take their lunch and recess, get on a bus, and come to a local church where we have a Bible study with them. I'm quite inspired. 16 fourth graders, and I got to teach them.

That afternoon my neighbor stopped to visit while I was walking the pups. I was sharing about Bible2Schools with them because one of the girls in the class knew his daughter. When she heard me talk about teaching the Bible, she ran to the car and brought back a paper with John 1:3-4. It was her memory verse from the Christian school she is attending.

I've been praying for this family for over a decade. It was just awesome and encouraging. Then the dad began telling me about the church they're going to, which is a gospel-preaching church. I didn't know whether to scream, "Hallelujah, God answered my prayers," or just smile and encourage him with my head nodding benignly, which is what I did. We pray and pray for people. And when you see movement toward Christ, it is awesome.

The second thing that was really encouraging happened in my local diner, where I was meeting my financial planner. He's a wonderful guy, and really sharp. He and I both aren't quiet. We hardly talked about finances for the first hour and a half. I was talking to him about the online resource Biblehub, which he's also been using.

He asked me some good questions like, "What does it mean when it says a husband should lay down his life for his wife? What does that look like?" I said, "Do you know where that verse comes from?" I explained the new commandment, which is love one another as I have loved you. We've talked about this many times, but it burns in my heart because it's so significant in scripture.

It's second only to the great commandment, which is love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. The new commandment is different from loving your neighbor as yourself, but instead, loving one another as I have loved you. I was quite inspired.

After a little bit the lady who was sitting in the next cubicle by herself gets up and was making her way to pay her check. As she stands she looks at us and says, "I'm sorry. I was eavesdropping. I really liked that teaching about the new commandment in the book of John."

Pretty soon I'm writing my website address on a napkin where she can listen to the talk for free and read the book as a PDF. She said, "I'm going to show this to my pastor."

Then a guy across from our booth chimes in, "I love hearing two pastors talking about the Word of God." We didn't correct him. We just smiled. It was an edifying time at lunch, preaching to the patrons.

Scott: Very cool.

Steve: We're going to talk today about how great a sacrifice Jesus offered. In our last podcast we read a big chunk of Hebrews talking about how Christ is the perfect sacrifice. It grows on me that this may have been the central event in all of history, that the Son of God would come and die for the sins of the world.

This is the centrality and the greatness and the importance of the sacrifice of Jesus. I don't think I appreciate fully. I want to make sure that we make an attempt to do it justice.

I'm going to begin today with something new. Have you ever listened to Elizabeth Elliot on a radio? When I'm on the car, I love it when I happen to catch her speaking. She starts every broadcast with, "We are loved with an everlasting love and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Steve: I'm thinking that I should start these podcasts with, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." When that scripture works its way down into the core of your being, it motivates you and me to read every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Scott: It's funny how unnatural that is for people. I've been sharing some of these stories with my family. I feel this need to explain, "Well, Steve takes every word in the Bible importantly, like it all matters and relates to Jesus." Which we all should.

Steve: You are right. You've articulated that so well. Jesus said this in Matthew 4:4 and Luke 4:4. He was quoting from Deuteronomy 8:3 "He humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know. That He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."

The second verse I would read before every podcast would be John 5:39, "You search the scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life, and it is they that bear witness about me."

I was in a Bible study where we were discussing John 1-3. One fella said, "Boy, it seems it's all based from the Old Testament." Then, another guy says, "I noticed that Jesus had a zeal for His father's house."

We've talked about that zeal on this show. David also had a zeal for His house as he expressed in Psalm 69. Moses had a zeal for the tabernacle. The Old Testament, the New Testament are equally important.

Before we go any further, let's pray and then we'll continue with my notes.

Father, thank You that You have given us Your word. Thank You that every word is inspired and profitable. We need to live by it if we're going to understand Your mind and Your essence, and know You.

We know that the scriptures point to Jesus, and so help us to have eyes to see what You want us to see today. Help us to have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to us today. In Jesus name, amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: In my Bible reading for this year, I have completed Matthew and Mark. Twice, I read about the crucifixion and the Last Supper. These events were during the season of the Passover, which I'm reading in the Old Testament as I'm finishing up Exodus. In the New Testament, the disciples are coming to Jerusalem preparing the Passover meal. Jesus told them where to go, what to do, how to set it up, and they shared the Passover meal right before the Passover Lamb laid His life down for the world. It impacts me so deeply.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8, "Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened, for Christ, our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore, celebrate the feast, not with old leaven -- the leaven of malice and evil -- but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

You and I look at that and we see Paul is pulling the New Testament together. He's saying, "Christ, our Passover lamb has been sacrificed." My mind then goes back to John. Two times in seven verses, we read, "Behold, the Lamb of God."

In the Greek when you have the genitive, which means possessive, you could also translate that, "Behold, God's Lamb." Lamb of God, God's Lamb, two different ways of saying the same phrase. John said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." May God help us to behold Him today.

Here are a few chunks of Hebrews 9 and 10. "When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the great and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands. That is to say, not of this creation and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood. He entered the Holy Place once for all having eternal redemption.

"For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh. How much more will the

blood of Christ who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

A little commentary: The blood of goats and bulls was effective to a point. It cleansed the flesh. The blood of Christ cleanses our inner man, it cleanses our conscience.

Starting again in the 19th verse, "When every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people, according to the law, He took the blood of the calves and the goats with water and scarlet wool and hyssop and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people."

I didn't notice that till this year. He took the sacrifice and he sprinkled the book, and then he tossed it on the people. Later, when Aaron was getting his garments, they sprinkled the blood on his pure, white garment, and anointed him.

You have the blood of Calvary, you might say, and the oil of the Holy Spirit of Pentecost, being sprinkled upon Aaron, the priest. He said, "This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you. In the same way, he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood."

According to the law, one may almost say, "All things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness." This makes me think of 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Two verses earlier in 1 John 1:7, "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin." The converse is—**with** the shedding of blood there is a ton of forgiveness.

Hebrews 10, "The law since it is only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never by the same sacrifices which they offer continually, year by year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered because the worshipers having once been cleansed would no longer have any consciousness of sins. By this we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all."

"Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices which can never take away sins, but He having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time and making perfect those who draw near, He sat down at the right hand of God waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet for by one offering He Has perfected for all of time those who are sanctified.

Wow. These people that were hearing this obviously knew the law, because the writer of Hebrews keeps appealing to the law as a springboard to show how magnificent what Jesus did was.

That's how we have to look at a lot of things that we're studying about the Tabernacle, as powerful as they are, they're a springboard to grasp the efficacy and

the magnificence of Christ. They're pointing us like John the Baptist, to Jesus. They're revealing Jesus in a special way.

When I see the four horns sticking up at the corners of the bronze altar, I think of Jesus being tied to those four horns.

I know that I can't move into the Holy of Holies, I can't go through that first veil, until Christ takes it away in His flesh and His work on the cross is complete.

I'm really getting this message. I'm getting it deeper and deeper the more I study it. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. He's the way to the Father. Nobody comes into the Holy of Holies, except through Him, and because of His sacrifice.

In the book of Revelation, the first five words of the book are the revelation of Jesus Christ. The word apocalypse in Greek means revelation. Even though there are apocalyptic things, such as judgments and plagues, I need to keep my focus on the fact that this book is to reveal Jesus Christ.

He is revealed as the lamb 27 times in the book of Revelation. I read through them all this morning, early, I studied them and picked out a couple to read this morning. We will have all eternity appreciating the scope of His sacrifice. We will be gathered around the throne not only to worship the Lamb, we're going to marry the Lamb.

When Jesus died. He made a way for all of our sin to be wiped out. All of our sin memory, our sense of guilt, our sense of shame, every piece of it is going to be washed away, gone, forever, nailed to the cross. We're going to be able to see Jesus as we need to see Jesus. We're going to see Him as He is.

Revelation 5:4, "I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it, one of the elders said to me, stop weeping. Behold, the lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the root of David has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."

Then he said, "And I saw between the throne and the elders, a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on a throne."

"When He had taken the book before living creatures the 24 elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints."

They sang a new song saying, "Worthy are you to take the book and to break its seals, for you were slain, and purchased for God with your blood. Man from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God and they will reign upon the earth."

That's us. We could write our names right in there. We have been purchased from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. We haven't been stuck in a corner. We have been made a kingdom and priests and we're going to reign with Him.

"Then, I looked and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders. The number of them was myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and blessing, and every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them.'

"I heard saying, 'To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.'" I feel like our time on this earth is practice for heaven. We need to start practicing worshiping the Lamb now because that is what we have been designed and created to do.

I love worshiping God. I love singing hymns that are focused on Him. I often take hymns which are focused on ourselves, and change the words to focus on Him.

Revelation 7, "After this, I looked and behold a great multitude that no one could number from every nation from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and the crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'"

These verses are just a sampling. There are 27 magnificent verses like these in Revelation. Revelation 21:22, "I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God, the Almighty, and the lamb. The city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives us light, and its lamp is the Lamb."

I'm going to close with two scriptures. 1 Peter 1:18 NLT. "You know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose Him as your ransom long before the world began."

Ephesians 5:2, "Live a life filled with love following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us. A pleasing aroma to God."

Scott: I feel like we could keep going all day long. You said there at the beginning that we didn't quite fully get into the magnitude of the sacrifice. We can talk about that all day and still not scratch the surface of how great the sacrifice.

When you were reading in Hebrews 10:14, "For by one sacrifice, He has made perfect forever. Those who are being made holy are sanctified." That to me is so comforting because anytime the devil wants to remind us of our sin, we can respond "No, no, made perfect forever." Done. Finished. Assurance of salvation settled right there in that verse.

You don't have to worry about it. We're still being sanctified. We're still being made holy. We're not quite all the way there yet. We will get there but we're not there yet. It's OK. It's not great that you're sinning still but you've been made perfect forever still in the eyes of God in the law of the universe. Christ has paid all that. You're done. It's good.

Steve: The debt is paid. He paid the debt. Fanny Crosby's hymn has come to my mind as I've been studying this. "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." Wow.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: Sins like scarlet are now white as snow. "Father, thank You, thank You, thank You, thank You, thank You, thank You. We could do this as Scott says and perhaps that's why we need eternity so we can properly thank You, for the sacrifice You made in watching your Son suffer, for the sacrifice He made in following through.

For the sacrifice the Spirit of God made in carrying him through, but we worship You. We thank You and we worship the Lamb today. We join with these wonderful, magnificent heavenly beings, because someday we're going to be with them.

We're going to be part of that great multitude. We say, to Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Scott: Amen. That's our show for this week folks. Thanks for joining us for the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at spdemme@gmail.com. If you have a question for me, you can reach me at scott@unsocializedmedia.com. Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.