

Victory of the Lamb – Good Friday 2019

Pastor Bill Limmer – It is finished

Imagine you are going to go to the Bucks game. And let's say the playoff tickets goes for a hundred and fifty dollars. If you pay 149.99 and someone gives you the extra penny. That's cool but not that big a deal right. If you want to go but you only \$145 and someone gives you \$5 that's ok too. Right but no that big a deal. It becomes a little more of a big deal when someone gives you \$50 to make us up the difference. A bigger deal when someone gives you a \$100 to cover you. We are talking a big blessing now, right. But what about when you don't have a dime and someone pays the whole \$150 and also buys you food. I think you and I are a whole lot more thankful in the last case scenario than we were when someone gave us a penny to make up the difference. Ticket prices are one thing, debts are another.

Debts are a big part of everyday life. Without going into a Dave Ramsey Financial Peace seminar, what other debts do you have? Mortgage, medical, car, cable, credit cards, electric, gas, insurance, tuition, student loans. It is like one bill after another right? Let's face it without payment plans there are somethings in life we might not ever afford. Cars take four to six years, student loans typically take well over a decade and home loans are frequently 30 years out. No wonder people celebrate when such large debts are paid. Most of us eventually pay off our debts but it is also possible to get so far into debt that here is no way out. I know a great guy who messed up and ended up on the wrong side of the law and part of the settlement led him into bankruptcy. Do you know anyone who ever had to file bankruptcy?

Forgive us our debts. When we pray the Lord's prayer and say forgive us our sins, the word for sin is actually the word for debts, what we owe. And it is actually a very big word because what we owe is out of this world impossible to pay. We are bankrupt, truly can't even contribute a penny toward this debt because this isn't a monetary debt, this is a spiritual. And the cost of this debt, the wage price, the forgiveness price, the remittance price is death and the death of a substitute who is perfect, holy, in every spiritual way. Our debt is so great there actually needed to be a plan in place. And with every plan there are steps that need to be taken, things to do.

Do you ever feel like there is always something to do? If it is not one thing, it is another. As soon as you finish one thing, there is something else to do. Does unfinished business hang over your head? Do you ever stress out over things that need to be done? When I was in school, I loved semester tests – for a lot of reasons – but one of those reasons was once the test was done the class was finished. It was over. Done. Or how about this. How many emails are in your inbox? I love having my email box empty not that it happens a lot but it is cool for me. For me if I have an email in my inbox it is telling me that I have a payment that is due, of at least time to read it if not answer it. I have to do something. I like it when my email inbox. Did you know there is even a little bonus picture when that comes up in google mail when your inbox is empty. (picture of empty in box). You are all done.

It was a Friday like any other Friday – except that it wasn't. There was going to be a crucifixion and the governor of the province had a plan. As was the custom, the governor wanted to show that he was a friend of the people and so he was going to release a prisoner. The choices were Jesus Barabbus or Jesus, King of the Jews. This was a slam dunk. Pilate was going to get this over with quickly and go home

and enjoy a long weekend. The choice was easy, but the people blew it. They chose the wrong Jesus to be released. The day wasn't over by a long shot. But the plan was almost complete.

This was the Friday that culminated a thousands year long plan. It started with Adam and Eve fell into sin and brought sin and the cost of sin to all people, namely death. God promised that in time he would send someone to crush Satan's head. He told Abraham he would be one of his descendants. He told Moses it would be a prophet like him. He told David that he would be a king that would reign forever. There are over 300 prophecies of the Savior in the old Testament. And in time these promises became more precise. He would be born of a virgin, born in Bethlehem, ride into Jerusalem on a donkey, and then the plan would be more violent he would be betrayed, suffer, be pierced.

There is only one person who fulfilled all these promises. His name is Jesus, not Barabbus, but Jesus King of the Jews. And so push came to shove and the sinless Son of God, was beaten and whipped to the bone. Flesh was ripped off his body, flesh was on the whip, flesh was on the ground, blood was everywhere. And he was led off to be nailed to a tree. For you and for me and for the world.

As the plan was a long time in coming so our list of sin is too long, the payment too high for any of us to pay and so Jesus died in our place. I know a lot of you know this but what some of you may not know is that before we can offer him all of our love, not just some of his love, for what he did for us we must admit our spiritual bankruptcy. We must give him ALL of our sin, rebellion, our defiance, our hate. You see if we don't, we will think that it is not that big deal, that Jesus was giving us the penny we needed to get into heaven, the five bucks, the 50 bucks, the one hundred bucks when in fact he paid the full price because we have nothing but sin to offer.

When a person was crucified this was a typical time for the person to repent, and to apologize, admit that they were wrong, kinda come clean before he died. But when Jesus was crucified, he had no sin to repent of, so he said what only he could say and what only he could mean, **"Father forgive them. For they do not know what they are doing."** Don't get confused, he wasn't just talking about the Roman soldiers . . . he was talking about you and me too. And a few hours later Jesus gave a status update on the plan. He said, **"It is finished."** Do you know that the original language means, **Paid in Full.** The plan of salvation was finished because the debt of our sin and the sin world was paid for in full. 1 Peter 3:18 **For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.** He paid the we couldn't pay. He willingly took the judgment of our sins to save us from suffering eternally for our sins. His pain is our gain. And so that is why we call this Friday Good Friday. It is finished.