

Sunday, May 31, 2009

Sermon Based Discussion

Sermon Title: Building Your Life on Jesus' Divinity

Pastor Enoch Liao

Sermon Series: Building Your Life on Jesus (Part 4); Sermon Text: Hebrews 10:1-18

INTRODUCTION

Perhaps you can think of a time when someone really let you down and tried to make it up to you. Perhaps they bought you an especially nice present. Perhaps they took you to an expensive restaurant. Maybe they just apologized over and over again.

You've probably also been on the other end of that equation. Have you ever let someone down and felt terrible about it? Afterwards, didn't you want to make it up to that person? Perhaps you spent more money than you could afford on some gift. Maybe you went out of your way to apologize.

But somehow, making it up to people doesn't really cut it. If we're honest, we will admit that getting an expensive gift when we've really been let down by someone doesn't really make things all right again. And if we're the party who blew it, we still often have a nagging sense of guilt no matter how much we apologize.

But what if we're not trying to make up for a particular act, but for a whole life? The Bible says we're all sinners, and whether we believe it or not, we all try to make up for our sins, our mistakes, ourselves. In this session we'll see why we can never make it up to us, to others, or to God. We'll also see why Jesus' divinity makes him the only one who ever could set things right again.

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. What is a gift that someone gave you to make up for something? If you are willing, share the background of that gift.
2. Have you ever received or given a gift to make up for something *really* bad? Did it do the job?

INTO THE BIBLE

3. Read Hebrews 10:1-4. In the Old Testament, the Jews were commanded to offer sacrifices for their sins. (See Leviticus 16:1-15) What can we learn about those sacrifices from this passage?
4. Read 10:5-10. In this passage, we read that even though God commanded the Israelites to offer sacrifices for sins, that's not what He really wanted. Why did God really want? (Esp. see 10:9-10)
5. How is the idea of a mere mortal offering a sacrifice for sins more like *making up* for our sins than *paying* for our sins?
6. Read 10:11-18. What differences does the writer of Hebrews describe between a typical priest (v.11) and Jesus' as a great high priest who is divine? (vv.12-14)
7. What does Jesus' divinity have to do with his offering being able to pay for all our sins once and for all?

GOING DEEPER

Jesus' offering has "made perfect" those who will trust in Him by completely paying for the sins of those who seek forgiveness in Christ. Because of that, the writer states in 10:18 "And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin." None other than the Son of God died in our place to pay for our sins. If we ever doubt the depth and power of God's forgiveness, we need to remember that the one who paid for our sins is God himself, Jesus, the Son of God.

8. So if a person professes faith in Christ and trusts in Jesus for forgiveness of sins, then should a person feel any valid guilt at all for sins?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Last week we learned that Jesus' humanity makes him a sympathetic great high priest. Jesus' humanity enables him to experience and understands all about being tempted, but he never sinned. This week, we see that Jesus' divinity makes him not only able to understand, but pay for our sins.

If you are to fully build a life on Jesus, you must learn all the Bible teaches about the person, words, and works of Jesus. And the Bible teaches that the person of Jesus is a God-man: fully divine and fully human. Worship him as such. If you wonder if Jesus understands, remember he's as human as you. If you wonder if Jesus has the power to forgive your sins and empower you, remember that he's as divine for He is God.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (Hebrews 10:9-10, NIV)

Hebrews 10 : 1-18

¹The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ²If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, ⁴because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

⁵Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;

⁶with burnt offerings and sin offerings
you were not pleased.

⁷Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—

I have come to do your will, O God.' ⁸First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made). ⁹Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

¹¹Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹²But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. ¹³Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, ¹⁴because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

¹⁵The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

¹⁶"This is the covenant I will make with them
after that time, says the Lord.

I will put my laws in their hearts,

and I will write them on their minds."¹⁷Then he adds:

"Their sins and lawless acts

I will remember no more."¹⁸And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.