THE LAMB OF GOD

 **DATE: 4/1/2018**

**TEXT: Exodus 12:3-5**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Ill.** The Royal Navy of Great Britain used a nautical expression when referencing to their ship rope, they called them “Rogue’s Yarn”. What was unique about the naval rope was that a red colored thread was woven into the yarn of the rope both to label it as naval property and to identify its manufacture. It is said that no matter how you cut the rope, this red or scarlet thread could be seen.

The same is true of the Bible

There is a “red thread” that is woven throughout the pages of God’s Word

From Genesis to Revelation you find this “red thread”

No matter how you “cut” the Bible, this “red thread” is exposed

You can divide it by book, chapter, and verse and this “red thread” will be found

What is this “red thread” that I’m talking about?

It is the message that salvation and the forgiveness of sin are found in the shed blood of Jesus Christ … His death, burial and resurrection, which is the Gospel

Of which this Sunday is all about

(It’s not about bunnies, and chocolate or easter eggs)

It’s about the Risen Saviour, who died to pay sin’s debt and bring all who will … unto Himself for Salvation

It’s through the blood that Jesus shed on Calvary’s cross

… That salvation has been Purchased and Provided

It’s through the blood of the Lord Jesus we are saved and forgiven of our sin

In my opinion, there is no greater illustration of this great truth than in the Lamb that was slain the night of the First Passover in Egypt

And we find the ordering of that in our text this morning

God said to the children of Israel in **Exodus 12:13 - *“When I see the blood, I will pass over you”***

The story is familiar to all of us (or least should be)

The children of Israel were to sacrifice a lamb and apply its blood to the doorpost of their house

This was the blood that God told the Death Angel to look for when he passed through the land of Egypt, the blood of the Lamb that had been slain

Throughout the entire story we read about the Lamb

In our text we find an interesting (Progressive) description of this Lamb that I want to build on

In **v. 3** we read of ***“a lamb”***

In **v. 4** we read of ***“the lamb”***

Then in **v. 5** we read of ***“your lamb”***

This was no ordinary, little Bo Peep’s Lamb

This story illustrates the Significance of **The Lamb of God**

And that’s the Subject I’d like to preach on this morning

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. “A” LAMB – v. 3**

A Lamb that Pictures Salvation

We read in **v. 3 - *“Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house”***

Twice in **v. 3** we read about ***“a lamb”***

In this Lamb we see pictured the requirements of salvation

First, notice with me …

**A. The ‘Selection’ of a Lamb**

**v. 3 – *“they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:”***

Every Family was to pick out a Lamb from their flock

But Not just any Lamb would do!

The Lamb that was to be selected is described in **v. 5** as a Lamb ***“without blemish”***

The Lamb that was to be selected had to be without sickness, spot, scar, sore, scab, or scratch

It was as the phrase ***“without blemish”*** implied, *complete and perfect in its entirety*

One blemish on the Lamb would have disqualified it from being used

In fact, we read in **v.6** that the Lamb was to be ***“kept”*** for 3 days so that it could be carefully examined for any blemishes

Picked on the 10th, viewed on the 11th, 12th, & 13th

Then sacrificed on the 14th day (5 days total)

You may ask why?

It was because this Lamb Typified and Served as an Old Testament picture of the Lord Jesus Christ,

The Lamb of God that would take away the sin of the world

**John 1:29 *– “The next day John (the Baptist) seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”***

The Lord Jesus was as **Hebrews 7:26** declares –

***“Holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners”***

The Bible says in **I John 3:5** that - ***“In Him was no sin”***

The Bible says in **II Corinthians 5:21** that - ***“He knew no sin”***

The Bible says in **I Peter 2:22** that He - **“*did not sin”***

**I Peter 1:19 – *“But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”***

Jesus was the Eternal Lamb without Spot or Blemish

He was without sin

I mentioned that the Lamb was put up for 3 days to be examined

The Lord Jesus was put on public display for 3 years

His life was scrutinized and observed by the world around Him

His life can be summed up in the words of Pilate –

**Luke 23:4 - *“I find no fault in Him”***

Even the demons had to say - ***“I know Who thou art the Holy One of God” -* Mark 1:24**

I remind you that only someone without Sin could die in the place of someone with sin

If there had been one blemish found in the Lamb, it would have been disqualified

If there had been one failure on the part of the Lord Jesus or one sin that could have been laid to His charge, He could not have been the Saviour of the World (Which could not happen)

He had to be sinless, without Spot or Blemish to die and take the place of those who are stained and soiled by sin

**Ill.** Imagine a man was standing before a judge for the crime of robbing a bank. In walks a friend who says, *“Your honor, I would like to take place of my friend. I don’t want him to go to jail. I would like to pay the penalty for his crime and take his place in prison.”* The judge asks, *“What is your name?”* He gives the judge his name and the judge runs a background check on the man and finds out that he is wanted for the same crime in another jurisdiction. This man could not take the place of his friend, for he has his crime and penalty to pay for. The guilty cannot take the place of the guilty.

Yet in the Lord Jesus, we see One that was without sin

He was fully qualified to take the place of the one that is guilty

When we look at the cross we see the guiltless One taking the place of the guilty ones

We see the Holy dying for the unholy

We see the sinless One taking the place and paying the penalty for the sinful ones

In **the Selection** of a Lamb we see that this Lamb had to be Perfect

Furthermore, we not only see …

**The ‘Selection’ of a Lamb**

But also …

**B. The ‘Sacrifice’ of a Lamb**

We read in **v. 6 - *“And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening”***

The Lamb was not only **Selected**; but it was also **Slain**

The Lamb had to die

The Blood of the Lamb had to be Shed

Again, I’m sure you’re asking why?

In **v. 7** we read - ***“And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it”***

The Blood was taken and placed on the two sides and the top of the door

First as a show of their Faith (***“a token”***)

The Bible declares in **Hebrews 9:22 - *“without the shedding of blood there is no remission”***

The word ***“remission”*** speaks of *being pardoned*

Without the shedding of blood there is no pardon from the penalty of our sin

The death of the Lord Jesus was more than a martyr’s death

It was a Divine Requirement

The only way God would forgive sin was by the shedding of blood

The Life of man (The Bible says) is in his Blood

**Genesis 9:4 a *– “But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof,***

***Genesis 9:6 – “Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He man”***

Sin as corrupted the Blood, its Defiled

In the Perfect Lamb dying, we see a picture of the Lord Jesus (God the Son) dying and shedding His Blood to Purchase and Provide our salvation

Now imagine that on that Passover night someone said,

*“Instead of staining my door with blood, I am going to hang a nice wreath or garland on the door. It will be much more attractive than having that nasty blood running down the door and onto the floor”*

Or maybe another says - *“I am going to trim my door in gold and silver”*

What would have happened?

They would have perished that night

And I’m sure there where those that did

Just like there are today, those who think they have a better way!

We read in **v. 13 *– “And the blood shall be to you for a token (their faith) upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt”***

Only the blood of the perfect and innocent could protect them

Only the Blood of the Lamb of God will protect us

**I Peter 1:18, 19 *– “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;” “But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”***

You can beautify your life with good works, good deeds, and even trim it out with morals and religion

But you cannot earn or purchase your own salvation

Even at our best, we are sinners that come short of the glory of God, and as sinners there is a penalty to be paid for our sin and that penalty is death

The Bible says in **Romans 6:23** that ***“the wages of sin is death”***

The only way man would be saved is through the death of the Lord Jesus and the shedding of His blood,

Whereby He took our place, dying in our stead, paying the penalty for our sins

There is No Greater Love then that

How did the children of Israel escape the night that the Lord smote the land of Egypt?

The Lord saw the blood on the doorposts of their houses

How do we escape the wrath of God and an eternal hell?

It is when the blood of the Lord Jesus has been applied to the doorposts of our heart

There was ***“a lamb”***

 It was ***“a lamb”*** that was **Selected** and **Slain**,

Giving us a wonderful picture of the Work and the Way of Salvation

Not only do we see **“A” LAMB**

But we also see …

**II. “THE” LAMB – v. 4**

The Lamb that Provides Salvation

In **v. 4** we read - ***“And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next unto his house take it according to the number of souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb”***

***“A lamb”*** is now called ***“the lamb”***

***“The lamb”*** takes our mind forward hundreds of years to the day when John the Baptist stood in the Jordan River and cried out …

**John 1:29 -*****“Behold, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world”***

(**Ill.** Grammar Lesson, Articles are words used to describe a noun (adjectives) The articles *the, a, an* are described as either Definite or Indefinite)

On that Passover night in Egypt there were many lambs that were slain

Yet, they were but a forerunner and a picture of THE LAMB—the Lord Jesus Christ

When I think of the Lord Jesus as **“the Lamb”** I think of …

2 thoughts, The **‘Foremost’** and **‘Final’** Lamb of Sacrifice

First, let’s look at …

**A. The ‘Foremost’ Lamb** **of Sacrifice**

When Abel brought his offering he brought a lamb

**Genesis 4:2, 4 – *“Abel was a keeper of sheep” “And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof”***

When Abraham carried his son Isaac to the mountain,

Isaac asked about the offering, his father replied

**Genesis 22:8 - *“My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt-offering”***

The appointed sacrifice for the Passover night in Egypt was a lamb

The authorized sacrifice for the daily offerings under the Jewish sacrificial system included a lamb

Hundreds of years would involve the sacrifice of an immense number of lambs

Someone as estimated over 250,000 in one year

Multiply that by the years and you realize there were an immense number of lambs that were slain

Yet, each lamb that died and each lamb that was offered as a sacrifice was But a picture of …

“THE LAMB”—the Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus would be the most important Lamb that died as a sacrifice for sin

Every lamb that was laid upon the altar was saying,

*“I am dying to cover your sins but there is One coming who will take away your sins”*

The most important sacrifice we see in the Bible is the Lord Jesus hanging upon Calvary’s cross

There we see not just ***“a lamb”*** but ***“the Lamb”***

There we see, not just a lamb offered by a family,

But the Lamb offered by the Heavenly Father

Furthermore, when we look at Jesus as the Lamb of God,

We not only see **the Foremost Lamb of Sacrifice**

But we also see …

**B. The ‘Final’ Lamb of Sacrifice**

From the time God clothed Adam and Eve in coats of animal skins (no doubt lamb skins)

**Genesis 3:21 *– “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them”***

… To the time Jesus died on the cross, …

… As I have already stated, thousands upon thousands of lambs would die

But when Jesus died on the cross He was the Last Lamb that needed to be offered

When Jesus bowed His head and cried, ***“It is finished”***

-- He took the knife out of the hand of the priest

-- He made the Jewish altar a relic of the past

-- He made the Jewish Passover a ceremony of nothing more than historical significance

He said to the priests of Israel - *“You can go ahead and put up your basins, hang up your utensils, and lay aside your priestly robes, matter-of-fact, you best go and find a new job”*

The work is now done

The Last Lamb has been offered for the sins of the world

The writer of Hebrews declared in **Hebrews 9:11, 12 –**

***“But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;” “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us”***

He offered not the blood of goats and calves,

But instead offered His own blood

He entered not into the Holy Place time and time again on the Day of Atonement, but once!

The one and only sacrifice of the Lord Jesus was enough to obtain eternal –I repeat – eternal redemption for each of us

The Bible says in **Hebrews 10:11, 12 - *“And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:” “But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God”***

Every day the priests would offer sacrifices for sin

Each year the High Priest would enter into the Holy of Holies with the blood of the sacrifice and sprinkled the blood upon the mercy seat to make atonement for sin for one more year

Yet all those sacrifices were only a temporary *covering for* sin

The sacrifice of the Lord Jesus did more than cover sin

As John the Baptist said, His sacrifice took away sin

Furthermore, the Bible said that Jesus, once He offered Himself as a sacrifice for sin, sat down at the right hand of God

The implication being, that the work was done

The High Priest under the Jewish system never sat down in the Holy of Holies

He entered with the blood and left as soon as His work was done

The same process was repeated year after year on the Day of Atonement

But in the case of the Lord Jesus, He sat down indicating that the work was done and the last sacrifice had been offered

What does this say to each of us?

It tells us that the work of salvation is finished

It tells us that salvation is not in what we do, but in what the Lord Jesus has done

Salvation is not by our works, but by His work!

**Titus 3:5 *– “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”***

It is not in how good we live, but by His death

It is not a matter of *do* but *done*

**A LAMB THAT PICTURES SALVATION**

**THE LAMB THAT PROVIDES SALVATION**

**III. “YOUR” LAMB – v. 5**

Your Lamb that Personalizes Salvation

We read in **v. 5 -**

***“Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats”***

We’ve look at ***“a lamb”*** and ***“the lamb”***

Now we see ***“your lamb”***

We see this lamb is not just any lamb

We see this lamb not just as the lamb

It has now become your lamb

For each of the Jews that sprinkled the blood of the lamb on their door post it was a personal matter

It was a lamb dying for them

When I think of the Lord Jesus as the Lamb of God, He is more than a lamb or the Lamb

He is my Lamb

David said - ***“The Lord is my Shepherd”*** (**Psalm 23:1**)

I can say - *“The Lord is my Lamb”*

He is my Lamb that has taken away my sin

Because the Lord Jesus is my Lamb, salvation is personal

I can say that I have been saved

Can you say that the Lamb is your Lamb?

Let’s look at a couple of thoughts concerning Your Lamb

First, let’s look at …

**A. The ‘Offering’ of Your Lamb**

We read in **v. 6** that the lamb was to be killed

I think of the procedures of killing the lamb and what it represented

**1.** The one who offered the lamb would place his hand upon the head of the lamb

In so doing, the one who offered the lamb was symbolically placing his sin upon the lamb

The guilty one was placing his sin upon the guiltless or innocent one

That is what the Father did when Jesus died upon the cross as the Lamb of sacrifice

**II Corinthians 5:21** declares - ***“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”***

Jesus became our sin-bearer

The Heavenly father placed on Him your and my sin and He paid the penalty for it

**2.** That is what salvation really is

When a person comes to the Lord Jesus and trusts Christ as their Saviour,

They are placing their sin upon Christ

A person is saying - *“Lord Jesus, I am a guilty sinner.*

*I am now placing my sin upon you and accepting you as my eternal sacrifice. It is Your death for me that I am depending on”*

**3.** Not only was the one who was offering the lamb symbolically placing his sin upon the lamb,

But also was symbolically receiving for himself the virtues of the lamb

Remember the lamb was to be without blemish which was a picture of the sinlessness of the Lord Jesus

Jesus knew no sin

When a person is saved they are declared righteous in the Lord Jesus Christ

His merits are credited to our account

We are accepted, not because of whom we are or what we have done,

… but because of the Lord Jesus—who He is and what He has done

The Lord Jesus – the Lamb of God, died that we might live

He bore our sins and when we trust Him as our Saviour, we are declared righteous in Him

**The ‘Offering’ of Your Lamb**

Lastly, let’s look at …

**B. The ‘Offer’ of Your Lamb / Closing**

I invite you now to go to Calvary with me

I want you to look at the Lord Jesus on the cross

See Him suffering as no man has ever suffered

See Him in all His agony hanging there

I want you see Him as a Lamb on an altar – God’s altar

See Him as He dies as a sacrificial Lamb

See Him dying in your place

See Him as He bears our sin

I invite you not only to see Him but to listen to Him

Listen as He cries - ***“I thirst”***

Listen as He cries - ***“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”***

Listen to His cries

But, more importantly, I want you to listen closely and hear Him as He says - *“I’m dying for you”*

*“I’m THE LAMB OF GOD dying in your place”*

*“I’m dying that you might be delivered from God’s wrath”*

*“I’m dying to pay the penalty for your sin”*

Hear Him as He pleads

*“Will you let me be YOUR LAMB?”*

When we look at Calvary we see the Lord Jesus dying as

**“A” LAMB THAT PICTURES SALVATION**

**“THE” LAMB THAT PROVIDES SALVATION**

**“YOUR” LAMB THAT PERSONALIZES SALVATION**