

THE RICHNESS OF GOD'S "SACRIFICIAL" LOVE

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Last weeks message --- The Richness of God's Unconditional Love. The story of Hosea. His very own painful marriage with his wife Gomer demonstrated how God's Unconditional Love changes history, events and lives!!

Hosea "redeemed", bought back his unchaste, unfaithful wife thru the power of Unconditional Love!! God too has bought you and I back when we were unfaithful to Him. Thru His Unconditional Love He has "redeemed" us thru His Son Jesus Christ and thru the work of the Cross! What an amazing truth this is!

Hosea ends his book with HOPE of RESTORATION all because of the Richness of God's Unconditional LOVE!!! (Read Ch. 14:1-9).

Today I want to continue to speak to you on the Richness of God's Love and in so doing I will address the truth that the Richness of His love is also SACRIFICIAL!

THE RICHNESS OF GOD'S SACRIFICIAL LOVE!!

TEXT: READ---- 1 John 4:7-12, Isaiah 52:13-53:12

John begins with a passionate plea to LOVE ONE ANOTHER! Why? Because it is God's Nature to LOVE.

John states it best in two ways—"LOVE comes from GOD" and "GOD is LOVE."

The key...vs. 7...Everyone who loves has been born of GOD!! For man to both experience and reveal the Love of God is to be Born of HIM and His Nature. Because true love comes from God, all those truly born of Him can love as He loves, Unconditionally and Sacrificially!!

This is the kind of Love the world needs to see and experience! Paul's prayer to the Ephesians is for them to encounter the true, powerful & life changing LOVE of God! Read Eph. 3:14-19.

This morning I want to address to these three principles about THE RICHNESS OF GOD'S SACRIFICIAL LOVE.

THEY ARE THESE:

- I. GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS INDEED SACRIFICIAL,**
- II. OUR LOVE FOR GOD MUST ALSO BE SACRIFICIAL,**
- III. OUR LOVE FOR OTHERS MUST BE SACRIFICIAL.**

LET'S LOOK CLOSER AT EACH OF THESE PRINCIPLES OF THE RICHNESS OF GOD'S LOVE.

I. GODS LOVE FOR US IS INDEED SACRIFICIAL.

John 3:16 God so loved the world that He "gave" ...that's GIVING!!

God's love to the whole world is a Sacrificial LOVE, a GIVING LOVE so that man could have LIFE!

1 John 4:9-10- this is how God showed His love among us, He sent His one and only son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

God's love for us was and is RICH!! His love is indeed a Sacrificial and a costly love. He gave his son as an atoning Sacrifice on our behalf.

This is how we know what Love is; Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

1 John 3:16 Atoning Sacrifice=Jesus Christ pd the necessary price for the acquittal and removal of the sins of mankind. Jesus paid a debt He did not owe-I owed a debt I could not pay, I needed someone to wash my sins away.

The Richness of God's love is that it is so Sacrificial and beneficial to US! Through Faith and trust in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven and washed away as far as the East is from the West.

The greatest picture of the Sacrificial love of God is seen through the eyes of Isaiah the prophet. Turn with me to Isaiah 52. Lets read vs. 13-53:12.

The prophet writes about the Suffering Servant and Savior Jesus Christ, 700 yrs. before his actual crucifixion and death. The prophet is very detailed and very descriptive and as we read and study thru this text what comes to our mind is the words of John, "Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the World" (Jn. 1:29).

Vs. 14 His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness (Cf. Acts 8:34-35, Philip & the E. eunuch).

The scene here as described the prophet is two- fold, one being of great horror, the other being of great joy. The prophet uses 12 statements

***He carried our Grief's, *he carried our sorrows, *he was wounded for our transgressions, *the chastisement of our peace was upon him, *with his stripes we are healed, *the Lord laid upon him the iniquities of us all, *he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, *he was stricken and smitten for the transgressions of God's people, *his soul was made an offering for sin by his father, *he bore the sins of many, *he interceded for the transgressors.**

The story of our Suffering Savior is indeed a picture of the Richness of God's Sacrificial Love for us! Vs. 15 uses the word "sprinkled" which carries with it priestly sacrificial overtones. The positive consequences of the suffering savior has a spiritual cleansing and purification for the souls of men, both Jew and Gentile alike, in reality for the whole world!

But not without a huge sacrifice on his part. Christ was despised and rejected and therefore was a man of many sorrows!!! This scene, described by the prophet truly reveals to us that the Richness of God's Love is indeed Sacrificial!!

In application, applied to our lives...

II. Our love for God must also be Sacrificial.

***The Disciples...come follow me and I make you fishers of men,**

(Matt. 4:18-20).

***“Unless you take up your cross daily and follow me you cannot be my disciples, (Luke 9:23)**

*** The Rich young Ruler, (Mark 10:17-31).**

*** The alabaster jar of perfume, (Matt. 26:6-13).**

*** The true cost of following Christ, (Luke 9:57-62).**

I once heard this said by a worship leader.. “if you are still counting the cost and value of your offering than you haven’t seen Christ’s true worth yet”

When the Richness of God’s true LOVE hits home in the human heart than there never is a Sacrifice!

Missionary Jim Elliot, “he is no fool to give up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

III. Our Love for others must also be Sacrificial

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down his life for his friends!

We must never forget that loves comes from God and that God is love. To know God than is to know true LOVE.

The Richness of God’s love is that it is so Unconditional and Sacrificial to us and once we encounter it, it is heart and life changing!!

It is vital than that we show and give it to others. Illustration: USS Pueblo captured by the N Vietnamese. 82 surviving crew members were thrust into brutal captivity. 13 of them were required to sit around a table for hrs. at a time not knowing when an enemy soldier would burst into the room and beat the man in the first chair an inch from his life. This happened 3 times and it was obvious that

the soldier would not survive another brutal beating. So a diff soldier sat in the first chair knowing about what was to happen and soon he too was beaten senseless. The US soldiers cont. to change seats and each took their turn sitting on the first chair. This went on for days. The N V guards eventually gave up. They couldn't defeat this kind of sacrificial love that the U S soldiers displayed to each other!! (Matt. 5:43-48) Jesus instructs up to even Love even your enemies!!

In Conclusion:

The Richness of God's Love is indeed Sacrificial!!

Because it is so Sacrificial, once we have encountered it, our own love for God and others must also be Sacrificial in both word an deed!

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKING TO YOU ABOUT THIS TRUTH!!

In Christ's love

Pastor Donn Jibben