**THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST (Luke 23:26-49)**

From times past the Old Testament prophets proclaimed that the Jewish messiah, in fact the Savior of the world, would be coming into the world and redeem His people and be their promised king.

In Isaiah 9:6-7 it says,

“For to us a child is born,  
    to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+9%3A6-7&version=ESV#fen-ESV-17836a)] his shoulder,  
    and his name shall be called[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+9%3A6-7&version=ESV#fen-ESV-17836b)]  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
    Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
    there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
    to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
    from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.”

In Zechariah 9:9 it says,

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
    Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, your king is coming to you;  
    righteous and having salvation is he,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
    on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The Lord Christ came into this world, but people didn’t revere or worship Him as He deserves. When it was time to reveal Himself to the world, He did so according to God’s will as it is was written in Deuteronomy 18:18

“I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.”

When He came into this world, Christ did God’s will all the days of His life since the very beginning. Christ never disobeyed God’s will, but always carried it out. As a result, the people in the world started to believe in Him, but they still lived in darkness.

When it was time to fulfill God’s work of salvation and redemption of man, Christ prayed to God for His people and to carry out the required sacrifice at the cross. Christ didn’t hesitate to go to the cross, but was determined to do so and not let anything stop Him.

Many people tried to get Him from being crucified, that would be against God’s will for salvation and Christ knew that.

In the end, Christ went to the cross to die for all our sins according to God’s plans written to us in His words.

All through out the road to the cross and even at the cross, Christ was determined to die for us in our place, so that He can take away all of our sins and shed His precious blood to wipe away all of our sins, heal our bodies, and take all the punishments that we all deserve for all the sins humanity has committed.

Even despite all that, people of the world still despise and mocked Him. His own disciples abandon Him and even reject Him. Christ still wanted to forgive people and never lashed out to them nor cursed them for His pain and torment.

In fact, Christ said in Luke 23:34a it says,

“And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Even a thief who was condemned to die with Christ asked to be saved and Jesus still forgave him and said that he will be with Him in paradise. In Christ’s heart it was more important that people believed in Him so that His sacrifice on the cross will be used to save and redeem us all in God’s eyes and according to His planned will.

Nothing man can do will ever be enough according to God’s holy, righteous standards nor redeem man back to a righteous relationship with God, nor satisfy God’s justice.

Because of Christ’s heart to cleanse man from all sins and redeemed all of us before God at cross, the temple curtains that separated the Holies of Holies from the rest of the temple and the world was ripped apart and revealed for all to see and experience.

Up until that point the Holies of Holies, which contained the Ark of the Covenant, was the place where the Lord’s presence lived in. Since the world was still wicked and sinful, people were separated from God’s presence by the curtains.

God’s justice from the very beginning required the offending sinners to be punished and die for all of their sins. In order to satisfy God’s justice and still live, the sinner needed a perfect substitute to die in the sinner’s place. The substitute must take all the required punishments the sinner deserves and die.

When Christ died on the cross for all of us, according to God’s redemptive will and plan, our sins were taken away and paid for. Christ’s blood cleanse away all of our sins from our bodies. The curtain that hide the Holies of Holies from us can now be ripped away because man now is clean from wickedness and can come before the presence of God without dying.

Man was redeemed back to God through the sacrifice of Christ. That is something for all of us to ponder and be in amazement because of Christ’s great love for us to be saved.

In the end of His earthly life, Christ committed His life back to God. On the third day, Christ rose from the grave which signals the new life of Christ that He gave to all who believed in Him.

What can we learn from this? Just like how Christ committed His life to God to the very end, we should rededicate the new life He gave us back to God as well. We should always seek the Lord’s will for us dally and carry it out with zeal, just like how Christ was determined to go to the cross and die for all of us in order to be redeemed before God according to His will.

Let us know God’s will and obey Him to the end. Let’s continue to read and meditate on God’s word every day. Let’s be empowered through prayer to Him and fellowship with Him more and more. If our spirit is low, if we feel alone, are afraid, and we don’t know where we should go, let’s pray for personal revival in spirit so that we can meet and fellowship with Christ again.

Let’s pray.