

The Miraculous Substitution

Isaiah 53

ADVENT CANDLE:

- We lit the first candle of advent to celebrate God's promise of a Savior.
- The second candle was to remember that the promise was kept. The Son of God was born of a virgin.
- The lighting of candle three reminded us that our Savior came to be the light of the world, and His life was the light of men.
- The fourth candle is to honor the reason that the Savior came. Our pastor will lead us in exploring that later in the worship service.

INTRODUCTION: Before the beginning of time, the Miracle was promised.

In the fullness of time, the Miracle was given.

In the middle of His ministry, the Miraculous Light declared that He Himself was the Light of the World and He offered eternal life to all who believed in Him.

However, my friend, understand this:

- **For the promise to be kept,**
- **For the Son who was given to fulfill His mission,**
- **For The Light of the World to grant eternal life to all who trusted in Him,**

Something else had to happen.

- It was at the heart of the promise.
- It was the key to the mission of the Son.
- It was that which empowered the gift of eternal life.

What was it that was so important that without it

- The promise would be broken
- The mission would have failed
- There would be no gift of life eternal

What was so critical to all of God's plan, fashioned before time began?

We see it as

I. THE BOY JESUS WENT TO THE TEMPLE.

Jesus has reached the age of twelve. Mary and Joseph have been both good and godly parents to Jesus. One of the ways they faithfully honored God was to make the long trip to Jerusalem at Passover to celebrate God's deliverance of His people from bondage to Egypt. The year Jesus became 12, He went with them!

While Jesus was present in Jerusalem, Jesus twice saw the answer that we seek. Two times, Jesus saw visibly portrayed before His young eyes

- what had to happen for the promise to be kept,
- what had to happen for Him to fulfill His mission,
- what had to happen for Him to be able to grant eternal life to those who trusted in Him

A. First Jesus saw it out in front on the temple as people brought their lamb from their flock to be sacrificed upon the brazen altar.

- He watched as the father of a family carried the lamb to the priest
- Stood the lamb up on its legs
- And laid his hands upon its head.
- The priest then took the lamb and killed it
- Offering it as a sacrifice for the sins of the father and his family.

The lamb became a substitute!

On that same trip to Jerusalem, Jesus sat down with His family to celebrate the Passover.

- Near the beginning of the meal, Joseph, as the head of the family would have called upon all of them to remember the purpose of the meal they were eating. In doing so, he would have read Exodus 6:5-7, giving emphasis to the four verbs describing what God would do.

Therefore say to the children of Israel:

I am the LORD;

- I will **bring you out** from under the burdens of the Egyptians,
- I will **rescue you** from their bondage,
- and I will **redeem you** with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.
- I will **take you** as My people, and I will be your God.

Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. (Exodus 6:6–7)

- Then Jesus' father explained how God accomplished this great miracle.
 - Each family was to take a lamb.

- One without any blemish
- They should slay the lamb.
- And they should take the blood of the lamb and put upon the door posts of their homes and on the lintel above the door.

- God would send one final miraculous plague, the death of the firstborn of each family. Two things would happen
 - Those who had the blood of the lamb on the door posts and lintel of their homes would not perish.
 - The death that came to the firstborn of those homes without the blood would be the blow that caused the bondage of Israel to be broken.
 - The next day, they would march out of the land of their slavery.

Once again, Jesus saw,

The lamb became a substitute!

To what degree the boy Jesus at age twelve understood that He Himself would become that substitute in the years ahead, we do not know.

We do know however, that He spent time with the rabbis in the courtyard of the temple, and they were amazed at the understanding of this young man.

We also know, that when His parents found Jesus in the temple among the rabbis and scolded Him because they did not know where He was, Jesus said to them,

Luke 2:49 ... "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

Then Jesus returned to Nazareth with His mom and earthly dad.

II. BACK HOME IN NAZARETH

- Ever since Jesus was five years old, **He had been attending school at the Synagogue in Nazareth.**
- By age twelve, He would have mastered Hebrew, and been able to read the Holy Scriptures in their original language, even though the common tongue of the people in this day was Aramaic.
- No doubt Jesus memorized many passages of the Holy Scriptures. As a man, Jesus often quoted the Word of God and demonstrated a complete knowledge of what we call today the Old Testament.
- One of the many books in which Jesus demonstrated proficiency was the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.
- Without question, He had studied Isaiah 53.

Isaiah wrote of God's promised Savior

Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

- But He was wounded for our transgressions,
- He was bruised for our iniquities;
- The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
- And by His stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

- For He was cut off from the land of the living;
- For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

When You make His soul an offering for sin, ... He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. (Isaiah 53:4–11)

Most certainly as Jesus read the words of Isaiah,

- As much as He knew Isaiah 7:14 was about Him

... Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

- As much as He knew Isaiah 9:6 was about Him

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

- So also He knew that Isaiah 53 was about Him.

He was wounded for our transgressions,

He was bruised for our iniquities;

And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

He was cut off from the land of the living;

For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

When You make His soul an offering for sin.

Sometime before Jesus began His earthly ministry at the age of 30, He knew!

The promised Savior would be the substitute.

Jesus would be the substitute.

III. JESUS ON THE CROSS

Jesus often tried to explain to those who loved and followed Him the necessity of His death.

That is why when the time was right, in spite of the pleas of his closest friends, Jesus went to Jerusalem.

As He had done when He was with His parents at the age of twelve, Jesus sat down to eat the Passover meal with His disciples.

- Now Jesus makes clear to them what has been the Father's plan all along.
- He lets them see, just as He saw so many years ago, this time using just two parts of the Passover meal, the bread and the cup.

Jesus took the bread and said, "This is My body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

Then He took the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. As often as you drink it, do this in remembrance of Me."

After Jesus prayed in the garden, He allowed wicked men to capture Him. The next day, they nailed the Son of God to the cross.

They did not know that

- With the pounding of the spikes into Jesus' hands and feet that they were fulfilling the plan that God the Father, Son, and Spirit had made in divine unity before time began.

They did not know that

- The One who wore the thorns upon His head was the Blessing of every family on the earth that came through Abraham.

They did not know that

- He who prayed for them as He hung upon the tree was the product of the virgin's womb prophesied by Isaiah.

They did not know that

- The One whose light of life they worked so desperately to extinguish was the One who was the Light of the World and came to give light and life to all men.

They did not know that

- Far greater than the agony of pain the Savior was enduring on the cross was the agony of the sins of all mankind that the Father laid upon His Own Dear Son, as He became the substitute for the sinful men and women of the world.

And for our sin, He died.

For OUR SIN, He died!

CONCLUSION: And that my friend, is why we celebrate Christmas.

We celebrate that Jesus was born because He is

The Miracle promised

The Miracle given

The Miraculous Light of the World

Our Miraculous Substitute

Who died for our sins

that we might be forgiven and

receive from Him the gift of eternal life.