



Good Friday
Lord's Supper/Footwashing

Sermon

Hobart, April 6th, 2012

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Introduction:

I. TODAY WE COMMEMORATE THE DEATH OF OUR SAVIOUR

A. WE COME TO REMEMBER WHAT IT MEANS TO US AND TO ALL CHRISTIANS

1. We are going to think about “Why Jesus Died?;”
2. Why he died, and who he died for, and the lessons and benefits we gain from his death for us

B. PRAYER

C. SONG: THERE IS A REDEEMER

BODY:

II. TODAY WE COMMEMORATE THE DEATH OF OUR SAVIOUR

A. WE COME TO REMEMBER WHAT IT MEANS TO US AND TO ALL CHRISTIANS

III. WHY THE CRUCIFIXION?

A. JESUS' CRUCIFIXION THAT WE COMMEMORATE TODAY, WAS A SHOCKING AND HORRIFIC EVENT

1. It is the central event in each of the Gospels.
2. and centre of the teaching of the NT Church

B. I CORINTHIANS 2:1-5 NIV

2 When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. [God's mystery]^c

² For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

^c Some manuscripts as *I proclaimed to you God's mystery*

³ I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. ¹

I Corinthians 15:1-4 NIV

15 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

C. THE APOSTLE JOHN ALSO FOCUSES ON JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS

1. as do all the other gospel writers

John 3:16-21 NIV

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, ^f that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ^g

¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes

¹*The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.) (1 Co 2:1). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

^f Or *his only begotten Son*

^g Or *God's only begotten Son*

into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”^h

D. JESUS DEATH TELLS US ALL WE REALLY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

1. God

2. and ourselves, about all of mankind

E. WE LEARN THAT:

1. God loves us

a) That we needed loving and saving from ourselves, from our self-condemning departure from God, which is sin

(1) That we needed rescuing from our ways that take us away from God and his love

(2) From as John describes it; our living in the dark and doing evil deeds

b) In his love, God rescues us from our ways that take us into pain, suffering, injustice, and death

(1) He initiates the solution, not us

(2) We are saved because God loves us, not because we repented

Romans 5: 8-11 NLT

(3) Paul, tells us that Christ died for us while we were yet sinners.

⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹ And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation.

¹⁰ For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. ¹¹ So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

F. TOO MANY RELIGIONS

1. Too many versions of Christian theology paint God as a God who needs to be placated

^h Some interpreters end the quotation after verse 15.

2. **A God who is upset with us, and needs punishment and payment in order to change his mind and forgive us**
3. **Jesus' crucifixion is seen as being that necessary payment made in order to get the Father to love us and accept us back into his good graces**

G. THE MISTAKE IS TOO OFTEN MADE OF STARTING WITH OUR SINS, WITH OUR PROBLEM, OUR WORLD

1. **and then seeing Jesus as the one who comes to get God to forgive our breaking of God's laws**
 - a) **But the place we need to begin, is where John, Paul, Jesus and the Scriptures begin**
 - b) **And they begin with God, with WHO he is, his nature, and his will**
2. **They begin with a God of love, who creates as Father, Son and Spirit**
 - a) **God who is a giving, loving, sharing, fellowshiping, communal being**
 - b) **God who creates out of love, as Father, Word, and Spirit**
 - c) **And who creates all things, including man, GOOD**
 - d) **Who creates man in his own image, to be like him**
 - (1) **Like him, living a giving, giving, loving, sharing, fellowshiping, communal life**
3. **But it all goes wrong**
 - a) **Mankind decides to live his own way, not depending, believing, trusting in God**
 - (1) **But depending, believing, trusting in himself**
 - (2) **As God says in Isaiah; living by their own light, and warming themselves by their own fire.**

H. IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE CROSS, THE CRUCIFIXION IN THIS LIGHT, WITH THIS BACKGROUND

1. **That Jesus died, because God so loved the world**
 - a) **Not because he was mad at us and needed placating**
 - b) **Jesus took our sins, our pain, our injustices, our evil, our broken relationships upon himself out of love**

2. He stood in our place, and suffered because God wants us forgiven, and reconciled to him

- a) because he has always wanted us to be with him, to be in his family, to be loved, and embraced
- b) To be freed of our rebellious sinfulness,
- c) Freed to share his life and his way of love, peace, harmony, and sharing

I. THIS IS CALLED THE WONDERFUL EXCHANGE, BY CALVIN AND LUTHER

- 1. that Christ takes on himself what is ours; our sin, estrangement from God and our death
- 2. and gives to us what is his in exchange; his holiness, love, relationship with the Father, and eternal life.

J. IN THE CROSS, WE LEARN DRAMATICALLY HOW FATHER, SON AND SPIRIT ARE

- 1. Love, grace, mercy and forgiveness at the core of their very being.

K. THE CROSS REMINDS US THAT GOD'S PURPOSE IS TO SAVE, NOT TO CONDEMN

- 1. He sent Jesus to do for us what we couldn't do
- 2. To rescue us from death, to lead us out of darkness into light
- 3. Jesus came into our sin-filled world and lives, to serve us, to bring us light, to wash our feet, to wash away our sins
- 4. To transform us to live in that light, that is himself

L. BECAUSE OF THE CROSS; OUR CALLING, OUR OPPORTUNITY

- 1. is to be the people God has made us to be in Christ, through the cross, through the divine exchange,
- 2. To be like him,
- 3. God is relationship,
 - a) his purpose in creating us was for a relationship of love with his creation.
 - b) His purpose in Jesus, is to restore us to that relationship of love, all of us

4. To lead us to be loving, humble servants of God and one another

a) as Jesus was, and is

M. WITH THIS IN MIND:

1. We come to our symbolic rituals that remind us, and express our gratitude for who God is, and what he has done for us all, in grace and love, through Jesus



IV. FOOTWASHING:

John 13:1-17 NLT

1 Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. [or showed them the full extent of his love]* 2 It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. 4 So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, 5 and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

A. JESUS IS DEMONSTRATING THAT HE CAME TO BE OUR SERVANT

1. To be our slave

a) **To love and humbly serve us, by giving up all he had at God's right hand, to come down and be part of his own physical creation**

6 When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

7 Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will." 8 "No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!"

Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me."

* Or he showed them the full extent of his love.

2. Michael Card writes about Jesus being the slave of all mankind in his book; A Better Freedom

In the midst of a slave culture, none of the disciples ever dreamed that the Messiah would come armed with a basin and a towel. When Jesus approached Peter at the Last Supper to wash his feet, such a thing was inappropriate, unthinkable... But in his relentless response to Peter, "If you do not allow this then we have nothing in common," Jesus was making it clear; If you do not understand his as Servant, then you do not understand him at all--and you never will.²

⁹ Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!"

¹⁰ Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." ¹¹ For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing?" ¹³ You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. ¹⁴ And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. ¹⁵ I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

B. IN TAKING PART IN THIS FOOTWASHING CEREMONY

1. we remember that Jesus Christ was God in the flesh, voluntarily humbling himself, taking upon himself a human body.

- a) We remember that he laid down his whole life as an act of service for us.

C. THE CROSS REPRESENTS JESUS' SELFLESS SERVICE AND ABIDING LOVE.

1. It reminds us that we are called to love and serve others as he did

² Michael Card, A Better Freedom, Intervarsity Press, 2009, p.129

2. **Having our feet washed depicts our need of accepting Jesus Christ and his act of service to us --- his sacrifice that cleanses us all of all sin, not just an elite few**

D. AS IS OUR ANNUAL TRADITION; LET US THEN WASH ONE ANOTHER'S FEET.

1. **Picturing what our Saviour has done for us,**
2. **and remembering how in him, we are to serve one another as He served us**

Men, those of you who would like to participate, please stand and follow the directions of the ushers to the side of this room.

Ladies, those of you who would like to participate in the footwashing, if you would now stand and follow the directions of the ushers into the far room.

E. PRAYER:

1. **Thank you, Lord, for sending Jesus into our lives, to be with us in our dark and dirty world, to give us light, to wash us clean**
2. **Help us each day to do serve him, and to serve our fellow human beings with his love**
3. **Amen.**

F. SONG: HE WAS PIERCED

G. SONG: I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

V. COMMUNION

I Corinthians 11:23-26

²³ For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread ²⁴ and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you.* Do this to remember me." ²⁵ In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it." ²⁶ For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.

A. SONG: ONE BREAD ONE BODY

B. SO, WE SHARE THIS BREAD AND THIS WINE, REMEMBERING JESUS

- 1. and how he died for out of love for all his creation, all his people.**
- 2. That we might all be adopted into the life of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

C. AS PEOPLE ALIVE IN GOD'S LOVE.

- 1. Let us eat. Let us drink. Let us remember and be thankful.**
- 2. Let us look to each day ahead in faith with hope.**

D. BREAD

E. WINE:

*Greek *which is for you*; other manuscripts read *which is broken for you*.

VI. CONCLUSION:

A. HYMN: AS I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

B. BLESSING

Go in peace.

May Jesus Christ,

who for our sake became obedient unto death,

even death on a cross,

keep you and strengthen you today and for ever.

Amen.