

An Issue of Blood

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By Rev. James May

Throughout the Bible we find that the central message that permeates every book is the message that Jesus, the very Son of God, would come, and has come, and has made a way for the salvation of the souls of men. Many have referred to this as the “Blood Line”, that line that ran through the slaying of the animals at the creation, shedding their blood, so that clothing of animal skin could be made for Adam and Eve, continues down through the system of sacrifices in the tabernacle of Moses and the temples in Jerusalem. That shedding of blood could not wash away sin, but pointed to the day when there would be a perfect sacrifice whose blood would be shed once and for all. Jesus Christ, born of a virgin and conceived by the Holy Spirit, is that sacrifice. Thank God that our Father in Heaven loved us so much that even while we were sinners living in absolute rebellion, He sent his only begotten Son to die for us.

As I was reading in the Book of Matthew this week, I began to read the miracles that occurred in the 9th chapter with the healing of the woman with the issue of blood, of the raising of Jarius’ daughter from the dead, giving of sight to the blind man, causing the man who wasn’t able to speak to suddenly have a voice to communicate, and a few of the events that followed, and it dawned upon me that there was a pattern going on here that can be seen in the sequence of these miracles.

This was the beginning of Jesus’ ministry. He was in the process of choosing his 12 disciples and had just called Matthew to follow him when the call came to go and minister to Jarius’ daughter. As Jesus began this journey to Jarius’ house, we see the whole scenario begin to unfold.

I am convinced that nothing in the Bible; and really, nothing in the lives of God’s people, happens by accident. There is a cause and a purpose behind it all. Often the cause is unseen and hidden in mystery, but we are instructed to walk by faith and not by sight, trusting God to bring his purpose and agenda to its fullness in our lives. The purposes of God for us are always right and always good, always culminating in some way that is for our good. That’s what the Bible promises to us, and that’s the promise of God that we live by.

God’s plan for every man was laid out in the very beginning, even to the point of designing the heart, body, mind, soul and spirit of every one of us, to be formed in

the very image and likeness of God himself. Each of you, as a human being, created in the image of God, is unique. Each of you carry qualities, abilities, dreams, visions and goals; a life that only you can live and that is like no other. The greatness and majesty of God can be seen in the fact that in spite of the billions of people that have been born into this world, there has never been two who are exactly the same in every way. Our God is a God of variety and that variety among us all reflects upon the innumerable aspects of who God is.

***Genesis 1:26** And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

***Genesis 1:27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

Making man after the likeness of God means that we all have within us a portion of the life of God. It's called a living soul, and it is that part of us that will never die. The heart, soul, innermost being, all that is you, except for this mortal house of flesh, is eternal. As the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, are eternal, then so are we. We are eternal from the moment of conception in our mother's womb. We did not exist in eternity past; but we will exist for eternity future.

That soul will be somewhere, knowing, feeling, thinking, a million years from now. The only question is where will you spend that eternity? Jesus came that we might live in that eternal day of peace and joy in the Lord; but because of sin and rebellion, many have chosen, and will yet choose, to spend the eternal existence in the gross darkness of hell's flames. Let us never forget that we are making that choice right now. One day at a time, one decision at a time, we are choosing today, our place for all eternity.

In this world in which we live, we have created many divisions among ourselves. Satan, the enemy of our souls and the deceiver of all mankind, has succeeded in driving wedges of division among man whom God created. He understands that divisions bring discord. Discord breeds hatred. And hatred breeds wars and death among men. Since the devil's purpose for man is to steal, kill and destroy everything that God has placed within us, then to create those divisions is just his way of accomplishing his plans.

God never intended for those divisions to come. His plans were for all men to be equal and to remain as man was in the beginning.

Acts 17:26 tells us that God, "... hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;"

Man was created perfect; with perfect intelligence, perfect body, perfect love, perfect heart and perfect blood. God's intention was for it to remain that way forever, but man chose otherwise. The perfect heart became filled with pride, envy and greed.

The perfect love was changed to conditional love and love is that is greatly perverted from God's agape love.

The perfect intelligence has become clouded and limited because of the effects of sin and our ability to think and reason are clouded by the cares of life.

The perfect body suddenly began to die, slowly at first, but then, as the effects of sin grew even greater, the body's slow march to the grave began to speed up as God had to put limitations on the life of men to limit their power to do evil.

The blood that was perfect when God created us has become polluted and now everything around us somehow gets into that blood. When the blood is impure, the whole body is affected, and the result is eventual death. No man has that pure blood that was required for the payment of sin; NO MAN BUT JESUS!

The salvation for the soul that God offers comes only through the perfect blood of Jesus that issued forth as he paid the price upon the cross for our sin.

For the record let me say that I heard a popular preacher on the TV teaching that Jesus became a sinner when he took upon himself the sins of man while he hung upon the cross. It is taught that Jesus died as a sinner, went to hell to experience the punishment for his sin, but then came out of hell to rise again.

Let me tell you that if this is true then Jesus would no longer have been the perfect sacrifice for sin.

Jesus did not die as a sinner. Sin never entered his heart. Jesus took upon the sin of the whole world; placing it all upon his shoulders, then gave his life in payment for every sin of every man for all time. He never became a sinner. He never was guilty of sin. He was, is and shall always be perfect.

If a man is found guilty of sin and his brother steps in to take his place in the execution, and somehow, though a miracle, the judge allows the death of the innocent brother to be sufficient payment for the crime of the guilty man, that does not make the man who died a man guilty of the crime. He just took the

punishment so that the other could live and go free. That's what Jesus did for you and me.

It was perfect, innocent, sinless blood that flowed on the cross; not the blood of a sinner. The Father in Heaven required innocent and perfect blood to be the worthy sacrifice. If that had not been so, then the blood of bulls and goats in the Old Testament would have been enough, and the blood of the prophets that had been slain for the cause of God's kingdom would have been sufficient. But they were not. The blood of all men is tainted by sin. The blood of all living creatures on this earth is tainted by sin. Only the blood of Jesus is perfect and able to be counted worthy for the payment of the sin of mankind.

Now let's focus on the events of Matthew Chapter 9 for a little while and let me show you what God revealed to me through it all.

This scenario begins with the fact that Jarius' daughter is sick; and in fact, she is languishing upon her bed at her home and she is dying. The family and friends, the best physicians that this Roman ruler could afford couldn't help, and there was no one else to turn to. Then Jarius became desperate and he thought about this new man of God in town, named Jesus.

He ran out, to go and search for Jesus. Jesus was his final hope, his greatest hope; his only hope!

In this we get a clear picture of the condition of the heart and soul of every man born into the world. We are all born in sin. We are all sin-sick and dying; slowly languishing upon our bed, with no hope. No man, no doctor, no lawyer, no soldier, no one – has the power to deliver us from the power of sin to destroy. The wages of sin is death. This is an immutable law of God.

When Jarius came to Jesus, his pleas were not ignored. Jesus came this way, began to minister among men, and there's no doubt in my mind that he knew that Jarius would meet him that day. He immediately began to go with Jarius, but it was a long walk.

This shows me that when a sinner comes to Christ, seeking answers and wanting help, that the Lord is always there, just waiting for the cry of the wayward child who wants to come home.

The Bible tells us that Jesus will accept all who come to him and that he will not cast aside any who call upon him. He is always listening for whosoever will call upon his name. His desire is to save all men.

As he walked along, we see the second step in this scenario. First there was the realization that there is no help, no answer for man outside of Jesus.

This act of faith and the results that it brings is seen again in the story of the woman with the issue of blood.

Matthew 9:20 And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment:

Matthew 9:21 For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.

Matthew 9:22 But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

Jarius ran, fell at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house. This little woman fought through the crowds, and with all her strength, against all odds, reached out and touched the hem of the garment that Jesus wore.

She had an issue of blood for 12 years. We all have had an issue of blood. Not in the same manner of course, but yet we had the issue of blood that was dead to Christ and tainted with sin.

We will only receive the deliverance from sin and the healing of the soul by doing the same thing she did. We must find our way to the foot of Jesus. We must fight against the things of this world, and the people of this world, and everything that might stand in our way. We must reach out by faith, believing and touch Jesus! Touching Jesus is all that really matters; then your life will never be the same. *How do we touch him? We call upon his name in repentance and faith, and Jesus will do the rest.*

This, to me, is the point of salvation; the healing of the soul, the application of the cleansing of the blood of the Lamb which takes away my sin. I touched Jesus and his blood has made me whole. Virtue has come to me from Jesus through faith in his power to forgive sins.

Faith reached out to Jesus and touched him – virtue flows only one way, from Jesus to the one who touched him. His power healed her issue; and through his blood all of our issues of sin are healed and washed away.

From the cleansing and healing power of the blood, we see that the next step is the giving of new life.

Matthew 9:23 And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise,

Matthew 9:24 He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn.

Matthew 9:25 But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose.

Just like this daughter of Jarius, we were all dead in sin. We could do nothing for ourselves. But Jesus came by, came to us in our hour of need, reached out his hand and lifted us up.

When the blood has cleansed away sin, then the Spirit gives us new life. We are born again into a new creation in Christ.

From repentance, seeking for God, to cleansing by the blood, then to rising again in new life, we see that the scenario goes onward. Those are the first works of salvation, but there are more blessings to come.

The next step in this scenario is the giving of sight to those who were blind!

In **Matthew 9:27-30**, Jesus encounters the two blind men. They believed, and according to their faith, their eyes were opened and they could see, maybe for the very first time.

Let us remember that we were all once blinded by sin. Spiritually, we could not see God; we could not understand his Word; we could not know of God's wonderful blessings.

Through salvation and the new life that we have been given, we now are given a new insight; to see; to understand and to know the greatness and wonders of our God. We see things in a whole new light. We understand the working of the Lord in our lives. We have a deeper understanding of what is going on around us.

Our spiritual eyes, once blind; are now opened that we might see all that God has for us.

But how much will we see? Let me tell you that you will only see as much as you have faith to see. Everything we learn about God requires a little deeper walk by faith.

Do you want to know more about Jesus? Do you want a clearer vision of the working of the Lord in your life? If so, then get closer to him and walk by faith a little further and deeper than many others are willing to go.

Jesus told those blind men, “according to your faith be it unto you”. That means that we can have all of the understanding of God that we want if we are just willing to have the faith to get it. Faith requires effort; and we have to put feet to our faith and step out, believing that what we ask for we will receive. Everything that we become in Christ; the victories that we will have; the work that we will do for Jesus; the power to overcome obstacles in our service to God; all of it will be according to our faith.

In the next part of this scenario, Jesus performs a miracle for the man who cannot speak.

Matthew 9:32 *As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil.*

Matthew 9:33 *And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.*

Why couldn't this man speak? He was possessed by the devil, and that demonic spirit controlled his tongue so that he could not speak out for God!

Until we come to Jesus, who do we belong to? We are either the child of the devil, or a child of God; and we are not a child of God until we come to him in repentance, receive the cleansing of sin by his blood, are born again into a new life and then receive spiritual sight to know that God is with us.

A sinner cannot speak the things of God in their fullness. True a lot of people pretend to be Christian and some of them even try to serve as preachers and ministers for the Lord. But let me tell you that the message they bring is not anointed by the Holy Ghost. Their message may be right out of the Bible and God will honor his word and be faithful to those who will believe the truth; but that is not a stamp of approval upon the ministry of the lying minister.

How can we preach about God if we don't know him? How can we give you the Mind of Christ, if we are not in tune with that Mind? We cannot speak what we do not know! We cannot give what we do not have!

But thank God, when salvation comes, and the anointing of God comes upon us, then we are free to speak the gospel and preach the truth.

Finally, the last step in the scenario of Matthew chapter 9 comes in the attack of the devil through using people to oppose the work of the Lord. Even though this was a clear miracle of God, the self-righteous Pharisees proclaimed that it was all the work of the devil, and not of God.

This lets us know that when salvation comes, your sins are cleansed, you receive new life in Christ, your eyes begin to see the truth and your tongue is set free to preach and teach others about Jesus, then get ready for the attack of the devil. You're not going to do a work for the Lord without opposition.

Satan's immediate purpose is to discredit all that God has done; to drag you back into that pit of darkness and hopelessness. Sadly, I've seen Satan even use some well-meaning people in the church to destroy the work of God in the heart of a new born again Christian.

Sometimes the church is its own worst enemy! Judgmental attitudes, condemning spirits, gossip that breeds lies and division; and even backbiting words are tools that Satan uses to drive new Christians right back into their old lives of sin. How many people have I heard say that they don't want to be a part of the church because of all the hypocrites in the church! What we all have to realize is that, even though we are saved, no one is perfect. Let us all just let God do the work in other people. Let them Holy Spirit deal with them in the areas where they need to grow. If we were as concerned about where we are spiritually as we are about where other people are, I think we would all be far better off.

Even though salvation has come, the blind can now see, the lame can walk again, and new life has been given; there is one thing that we must all never fail to realize; all of us are subject to the frailty of life and the weakness of the flesh.

Matthew 9:36 *But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*

When we begin serving the Lord we must come to know the seriousness of the calling that is place upon us. God didn't save us just to sit and enjoy our salvation. We are saved to become a part of his last days army that will drive back the devil and conquer the strongholds of wickedness around us.

People are dying; slipping quickly away into the eternal flames. Therefore we must be about our Father's business winning souls.

Matthew 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, *The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;*

Matthew 9:38 *Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*

There's a harvest that is ripe in the fields. Revival is upon us. Men's souls are crying out for answers. Will be a worker in the fields, or will we sit in our comfort zone while others do the work?

I believe that we are heading into a time of great revival. Souls are crying and men are dying. But that revival can only come as more laborers enter the fields and begin to pray and cry out on behalf of those who need Jesus.

Our prayer shouldn't be just, "Lord, send workers into the fields"!

Our prayer should be, "Lord, send me! Let me be among those workers in the field who are reaping the harvest. Let me be a part of what God is doing in the earth in these last days. Lord, here I am, send me, use me, show me, lead and guide me. Let me labor in the harvest of lost souls today."