

BECKY COMBEE MINISTRIES, INC.

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The Cost of Victory BY BECKY COMBEE

There are many blessings in life that are NOT free. Someone, somewhere, has counted the cost and made the sacrifice that brought victory. Devoted parents are a primary example. Night and day they walk with their child to insure that he is safe, secure, and successful. From late nights by his bedside to the necessary arbitration between siblings, mom and dad are there. They give of themselves as chauffeur, chef, and counselor. They are the child's tutor, straining to remember the long-forgotten principles of English or math. Together mom and dad sacrifice their time, energy and finances because they love their child.

Yet, their effort is often unappreciated, their authority contradicted and opposed. The sacrifice they have made is undervalued and misunderstood, at least for a season. Sometimes, their sound words of advice are not greeted by the heart-warming words, "I'll do it mom. I'll get right on it." Oh, there are many exceptions, but challenge comes from even the most obedient child.

THE PRICE

From our studies of the Scripture, we know that Jesus was also met by opposition. The New Living translation says that sinful people did terrible things to Him. The Contemporary English Version records that He was insulted by sinners while the New American Standard writes that sinners were hostile toward Him.¹ He endured this struggle because He came to rescue man from sin. **He came because God SO loved the world.**

The preordained plan of God was that Jesus would die for all men – even for those who opposed Him so bitterly. However, the cost was high. Jesus would carry the sin of the world and

Not Life Like His BY SUZANNE D. WILLIAMS

*Jesus Christ in the Ancient Aramaic language is Eashoa' Msheekha: **The Anointed Life-Giver.***

They discounted Him, a baby born in a manger, though angels sang His praises, shepherds worshiped at his feet, and wise men traveled from afar.¹ They were dismayed by Him, a youth found in the temple inquiring after His Father's business² Didn't they know that's where He'd be?

They denied Him, saying, "He's John the Baptist, Elias, or one of the prophets. Not God. He couldn't be."³ They destroyed Him, hung Him on the cross to die like a thief and a robber, when all He'd done was love the lost and heal the forsaken.⁴

Then they diminished Him, rolled a stone over the tomb, posted a guard and said, "See there? Get out of this one."⁵ A dare. But they didn't know He wasn't finished yet. He had more work to do. After all, He was **The Anointed Life-Giver.**

He'd been that all along. The Holy Spirit descended on Him like a dove and a voice from heaven declared it. "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."⁶ And again on the mountain, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."⁷

Hear Him because He's the Life-Giver. Do you get that? Do you?

He's there, walking on earth, healing the sick, the blind, and the lame because all that was in Him is life. He's casting out devils because all that is in Him is life. He's raising the dead because all that is in Him is life. The woman touched His garment and received healing because all He had to give is life. Jairus' daughter opened her eyes because He's so full of life.⁸

"Just ask," He said, "and I'll give you life. Believe, and I'll give you life. Pray, and I'll give you

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life. Share and I'll give others life, too." Life for whosoever, whensoever, wheresoever. No exemptions. No exclusions. No exceptions.

Yet discounted, denied, and dismissed, He did the only thing One with so much life could do, He delivered them. He traded His life for their death!⁹ When life was all He'd known, life was all He'd had, life was all He'd experienced. And all the while, the people hissed and booed and cast him aside. "I don't know him. I haven't been with him. Crucify him." Crucify **the Life-Giver**.

But see, there's the thing. Life as we know it is fragile. Things die and we mourn. **But not life like His**, that kind of life you can't set aside, put away, or lock up. That kind of life you can't send into hell and expect things to stay the same because that kind of life has to do something, change something, create something.

That's the life that forms land, and skies and seas.¹⁰ That's life that makes man in its own

image.¹¹ That's life that is so bright, so marvelous, so wonderful you can't stand in it, can't contain it, can't suppress it. That's life abundant, exceeding, and overflowing.¹²

They had it all wrong. Because in killing the Life-Giver they released the very life they tried to desist into the heart of any man who raises his voice to receive it. Any man from that day across the ages of time to this who with fingers outstretched decides to pull on that life until The Anointed Life-Giver returns.

Because He's coming. He's coming. Do you hear me? **THE ANOINTED LIFE-GIVER IS COMING**. You can't stop life like that. Man already tried. And failed.

*And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and **The Anointed Life-Giver**, whom thou hast sent.*¹³

¹Lk 2:7,13;Mt 2:1 ²Lk 2:49 ³Mk 8:28 ⁴Mt 26:55 ⁵Mt 27:60 ⁶Mt 3:17 ⁷Mt 17:5 ⁸Mt 9:20;Mt 5:42 ⁹Php 2:8 ¹⁰Ge1:1 ¹¹Ge2:26 ¹²Eph 3:20 ¹³Jn 17:3, author's paraphrase

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suffer in the place of damnation. Face to face with His archenemy Satan and separated from His Father, He would stand until the price for man's sin was paid. He had been despised, beaten, and crucified, and now, isolated from His Father, **He awaited the cry of victory – the day when the payment for sin was fully paid**.

After three days, victory came! Satan had been stripped of his armor and relieved of his keys. He was defeated.² Jesus could place His blood on heaven's altar to cancel the sin of man.³ What a glorious day!

For Jesus, the pain and agony was over. The sacrifice was ended, and **He was raised in triumph** to be seated at the right hand of the Father. All men who would believe in Him could come to God His Father. God would be their Father, too, and heaven would be their eternal home.

The price Jesus paid was astronomical! Sin! Suffering! Death! Yet the cost for man was nothing! No price! No suffering! No work!⁴ Man was freely rescued and delivered. His sins were remitted. It

was free! Eternal life was given. It was free! The Holy Spirit was received! He was free! Every blessing and resource was free.

The response of man for these great blessings is trust. Trust! Commitment! Obedience! This should not be a sacrifice, but a joy. Walking with God toward eternity should be man's greatest pleasure for in His presence is fullness of joy. This truth should order our steps and lead our lives.

We must trust and obey until He comes. All is well when we are committed to Him for we are His people, the sheep of His pasture, and obedience to His leadership brings tremendous victory in our lives. Yet, we must constantly be reminded that this victory is because of His sacrifice. The hymnist ably said, "Jesus paid it all, All to him I owe: Sin had left a crimson stain, He wash'd it white as snow."⁵ What a tremendous truth. What a valuable lesson! Our heart overflows with "joy unspeakable and full of glory."⁶ Glory! Joy! Blessings! Victory! FREE! Because of Jesus!

¹Heb 12:3 ²Rev 1:18;Lk 11:21-22 ³Heb 9:26 ⁴Eph 2:10,Tit 3:5 ⁵"Jesus Paid It All" Author: Elvina M. Hall (1865) ⁶1Pe 1:8