



*Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.*

### *The Cost of Sacrifice*

By Becky Combee

Every parent understands the cost of sacrifice. It is always in Mom and Dad's heart to please their child, but often, the price is "exceedingly abundantly above" the budget. Yet love always seeks to be a blessing, to go over the top. For a smile! For a hug! For that peace of mind that says we did it! The archives of our heart are full of such memories.

Our son has always been a bicycle enthusiast. He still rides long distances today with his grandchildren. One year, he wanted a bicycle that had to be purchased part-by-part and put together. It was approximately six-hundred dollars when a good bicycle could be purchased for less than fifty dollars. Because we are people of faith, we made a deal with him. We promised to pay half of the price if he would pay half. Honestly, I didn't know how we were going to do it, but soon, he had mowed his way to victory. We were obligated to our word!

According to the book of Hebrews, Jesus endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him.<sup>1</sup> God's only begotten Son faced the voices of opposition, the stripes on His back, the nails in His hands, and the sword in His side. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He was despised, oppressed and afflicted.<sup>2</sup> **What was the purpose of such an agonizing death?**

In the Garden of Eden, God instructed Adam to be fruitful and multiply. From the beginning, God's dream was for a family made in His image, bearing His likeness. Far beyond Adam and Eve, He

### *The Ultimate Display of Love*

By Suzanne D. Williams

*[Pilate] went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? **But Jesus gave him no answer.** (Jn 19:9)*

He stood accused of a crime He didn't commit, condemned already in the court of public opinion. Social networks, media giants, townspeople, soldiers, even religious leaders bought into the lies that'd been told about Him and turned violent in their hate. Riots broke out. Protests, screamed by angry voices. Those who'd stood by Him, hours ago, denied they even knew His name.

Punished unjustly and dragged, once more, before the judge, He was given a chance to offer a belated defense.

*Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? (Jn 19:10)*

This was His moment, His comeuppance. Here, He'd deny the allegations and give proof of His lineage. He'd tell how He'd descended from kings, from great fathers in the faith. With fire in His eyes, He'd show them who they were messing with, and the crowd, currently clamoring for His life, would fall eternally silent.

**We want a Savior with a sword in His hand,** leading a massive army, but pressed to the wall, whipped until He bled, His garments torn, His name

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envisioned many who would walk with Him and talk with Him. Did He desire more than fellowship? **Yes, He desired union.** Oneness! The kingdom of God in man!

Because of Adam and Eve's sin, God's plan was thwarted and delayed. Satan became the god of this world, and man now bore his nature. When Jesus spoke to the Jews, He said, "Ye are of your father the devil."<sup>3</sup> What was God's remedy for sin? It was the sacrifice of His Son. Through Jesus' death, all who call upon the name of the Lord can be saved.<sup>4</sup>

**The blood of Jesus' sacrifice would rescue man.** Three days and nights in hell would result in victory for every believer. Satan's defeat would be secured, and man could be raised from the power of darkness into God's kingdom of light.<sup>5</sup> "God is light, and in Him is not darkness at all."<sup>6</sup> Now all who declare Jesus as Lord will share His light. We become God's sons and His light in the world.<sup>7</sup>

**We are family!** We are new creatures with God's divine nature! We are one with Him, and as we walk in His light, obeying His commands, we enjoy the most magnificent fellowship on earth. Every day, we can walk with Him and talk with Him just as Adam did in the beginning. We can bow before Him and enjoy His presence. He is our Father and we are His beloved sons. We are family!

The harsh, oppressive, and cruel sacrifice of the Son of God ushered in the joy of family! A family made in His image, sharing His likeness. God's word to Adam – Be fruitful and multiply – was perfected by the Son of God. The prophet Isaiah writes of Jesus' death and Resurrection saying, "He shall see his seed." Then Isaiah gives us the joyful cry of heaven, "The pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand."<sup>8</sup> The sacrifice was for family, and it brought our mighty God great pleasure. JOY! PLEASURE! SACRIFICE! RESURRECTION! FAMILY!

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."<sup>9</sup> This Easter season, look unto Jesus family of God and REJOICE! His sacrifice is complete, and **He is risen!**

*(Continued from THE ULTIMATE DISPLAY OF LOVE)*

mocked, **Jesus said nothing at all** until Pilate flexed His government muscles. Commentaries agree that Pilate's question was authoritative.

*You refuse to speak to me? (CJB)*

Jesus put him in his place. "Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above."<sup>10</sup> He knew His life served a greater purpose than any selfish defense. That the victory He would have would come through humility. Through sacrifice.

He knew the power of His Words, that anything He spoke would come to pass. He'd explained this many times in His ministry.<sup>11</sup> This spiritual principle came into play at its greatest, facing the cross. Whatever He might have said to protect Himself would have undone the display of love that sent Him forward toward a cruel death and a glorious triumph.

*And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (Php 2:8)*

He didn't take offense. He didn't cast judgment. He didn't make excuses or complain. He didn't describe Himself and state His qualifications for being there. He didn't even reply to Pilate's question with something as simple as where He came from. Given the chance to save Himself, He didn't talk at all. **Because His words had already been spoken.** His prayers made for you and me.<sup>12</sup> At that moment, "for the joy that was set before him [He] endured the cross, despising the shame."<sup>13</sup>

To bring us into a New Covenant, a better Covenant, with better promises, and complete, whole, salvation.<sup>14</sup> Because He loved the world that much.

*For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. (Heb 12:3)*

<sup>1</sup>Heb 12:2 <sup>2</sup>Is 53:3,7 <sup>3</sup>Jn 8:44 <sup>4</sup>Rm 10:13 <sup>5</sup>Col 1:13 <sup>6</sup>1Jn 1:5 <sup>7</sup>Mt 5:14 <sup>8</sup>Is 53:10 <sup>9</sup>Heb 12:2 <sup>10</sup>Jn 19:11 <sup>11</sup>Mk 11:24 <sup>12</sup>Jn 17 <sup>13</sup>Heb 12:2 <sup>14</sup>Heb 8:6