

LaKesha's Pen

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ! Thank you so much for visiting our website! Here is an excerpt of my notes from Pastor A.J.'s sermon, "The Crucified Life."

In Matthew 5:17 we read the passage of scripture where Jesus is explaining that He did not come to destroy what God had given them in the Old Testament but that He was there to fulfill it. Jesus was saying He is the only One who meets God's criteria as a perfect sacrifice. In the Old Testament once a year on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest would go into the Holy of Holies and make an animal sacrifice for the sins committed by the people. But the blood of an animal could not restore us permanently to God. That's why sacrifices were made once a year. Only a perfect human sacrifice would be able to restore us permanently. Through Jesus the Christ the debt for our sins has been paid in full. Let's explain it this way.... Let's say you owe the bank \$500,000.00 on your home. Before you can receive the title to what belongs to you this is the debt that must be paid. But you are only able to pay the interest on the loan once a year; which means you are not lowering the amount you owe to the bank. You will never get the title to your home at this rate. Likewise, this is what was happening every year when the high priest offered animal sacrifices. It was making a payment for sin but never paying off what you really owed for your sins. Well a wealthy uncle comes along and tells you he wants to help you and pays the entire balance of the loan including the interest. That's what Jesus did for us and gave us the title to have a relationship with God and be joint heirs with Him in Heaven. When we view what Jesus did from this perspective we must **change** the way we think about God. In changing the way we think we will change what we say. We must go from the point of asking God to meet our needs and wants, to thanking Him for providing a way to what we desire.

To read the full sermon notes, [click here!](#)

We pray that Pastor A.J.'s Message will bless you the way it blessed us! Please come back again next week for more from "LaKesha's Pen" with another inspiring message.

Yours in Christ,
LaKesha Johnson-Lewis

Full Notes:

Sermon: The Crucified Life, Part I

Scripture: Galatians 2:20 Amplified Bible (AMP)

"I have been crucified with Christ [in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ (the Messiah) lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live

by faith in (by adherence to and reliance on and complete trust in) the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

Part I. What happened at the cross?

In order for us to be able to fully understand **Galatians 2:20** we must journey back to the book of Beginnings better known as Genesis. In **Genesis 1:26** we see God’s design for humankind.

Genesis 1:26 says

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

God created man to have authority over all the earth. But as we read further into Genesis His design was altered by sin. In Genesis chapter 3 we read the “fall of man”. After Adam and Eve sinned in the garden we lost our dominion or authority. The serpent entered the garden and began a conversation with Eve. Eve finds herself now reasoning with what God said.

Genesis 3

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Eve begins to reason with the spoken Word of God when she hears the lies of the serpent. What she wanted began to outweigh what God told Adam, she began to lust after this forbidden fruit. She reasoned to herself that the fruit was good for food, necessary for living, even though she had many other trees to choose from. She saw it was desirable. It was appealing to her eyes and she would be smarter for it. She then ate and shared it with Adam. After God uncovered their disobedience to them removed them from the Garden. This was to keep them from eating from the Tree of Life, which would leave them in a fallen state for all eternity. God knew that Adam and Eve would sin and need to be redeemed or brought back into relationship with Him, so He begins His plan of Salvation. In His knowing, He created the cross even before creation. There is nothing that you or I have done or have not done that surprises God. He knew what we would do, when we would do it and who we would do it with. God is not surprised by you. In fact God loves us perfectly and unconditionally with an unfailing love that surpasses our expectations.

When we can’t and don’t love ourselves He still loves us. Let me share with you a true fact: **God isn’t disappointed in you.** When we disappoint ourselves, when we disappoint others, when others disappoint us, God is not disappointed. The only way for a person to become

disappointed is if their expectations have not been met and since God knows all things (Omniscient) He can never be disappointed in you! We often fail to realize the love that God has for us. We must remind ourselves daily **“I am the righteous of God and I lack nothing!”** Unlike Eve we must NOT reason with the lies of Satan; but like Jesus in **Matthew 4** we must speak God’s Word to Satan. Satan has always tried to get us to believe his lies regarding God’s love for us. He accuses us to God, God to us and us to one another. But in God we are whole and lack nothing. God has always wanted us; **Revelation 13** tells us Jesus, the Lamb of God, was slain from the foundation of the earth.

“Before you have the problem, God has your provision.” (God has what you need already prepared for you even before your problem existed.)

Don’t get down on yourself when you make mistakes. God uses those mistakes to reveal our weaknesses but He uses them to mature us. He uses mistakes and situations to help us become more like Christ and to learn to live by faith and reliance on Him in everything we do. God has given us a great and precious gift called “Free Will” it is our right to choose how we will live life. Will we live a life that honors Christ or will we live a life that honors Satan? God being the essence of Love will allow us to make bad choices to get to a place where we learn to make “god” choices. He doesn’t want us to be obligated to sin. You know what that means. It means you are committed to doing wrong. Because you gave your word to someone, even though you know it is wrong; you decide not to go back on your word. Well God wants us to get to a place where we obligate ourselves to His Word and Way of doing things. In **Exodus 20** the 10 commandments are given. This list of “thou shalt not’s” was a tool God used to show the Israelites (God’s chosen people) they would never be able to meet his standards of living and would need a Savior, Jesus the Christ. Just like the Israelite we too need a Savior to keep us connected to God.

God is waiting for you to mature to be able to give you His provisions!

Matthew 5:17 New King James Version (NKJV)

Christ Fulfills the Law

17 “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

In Matthew 5:17 we read the passage of scripture where Jesus is explaining that He did not come to destroy what God had given them in the Old Testament but that He was there to fulfill it. Jesus was saying He is the only One who meets God’s criteria as a perfect sacrifice. In the Old Testament once a year on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest would go into the Holy of Holies and make an animal sacrifice for the sins committed by the people. But the blood of an animal could not restore us permanently to God. That’s why sacrifices were made once a year. Only a perfect human sacrifice would be able to restore us permanently. Through Jesus the Christ the debt for our sins has been paid in full. Let’s explain it this way.... Let’s say you owe the bank \$500,000.00 on your home. Before you can receive the title to what belongs to you this is the debt that must be paid. But you are only able to pay the interest on the loan once a year;

which means you are not lowering the amount you owe to the bank. You will never get the title to your home at this rate. Likewise, this is what was happening every year when the high priest offered animal sacrifices. It was making a payment for sin but never paying off what you really owed for your sins. Well a wealthy uncle comes along and tells you he wants to help you and pays the entire balance of the loan including the interest. That's what Jesus did for us and gave us the title to have a relationship with God and be joint heirs with Him in Heaven. When we view what Jesus did from this perspective we must **change** the way we think about God. In changing the way we think we will change what we say. We must go from the point of asking God to meet our needs and wants, to thanking Him for providing a way to what we desire. Righteousness and unrighteousness cannot co-exist.

Move from: REVIEWING PROBLEMS CONSTANTLY - to RENEWING YOUR MINDSETS - to RECEIVING HIS PROVISION (Romans 12:2)

With Christ going to the cross it releases you to be the whole fantastic person God has created you to be. Though you may have bumps and bruises from the past God restores you!

Live the life God has called you to live! A Crucified Life!