



Portraits
Easter Sermon 2009
Sermon Discussion Notes

OPENING THOUGHT

When we want to reminisce we look at old photos either in our photo albums, on computers or cell phones. Looking at pictures allows us to travel backwards and re-live special moments in our lives. God loves pictures too. In the Old Testament he gave us a trail of ancient pictures that didn't look backwards but pointed forward to the coming of his son. When we look at the cross in the New Testament it is the ultimate picture of God's love for mankind (John 3:16). To some the brutal death of Jesus on the cross is hard to understand. What a strange picture, the execution of an innocent man on the cross. What does that mean? The pictures in the Old Testament help us to understand what the cross really means. On the first Easter Jesus walked along incognito with two disciples on the way to Emmaus. He spoke with them regarding how the death and sacrifice of Jesus was revealed in the Old Testament. Read the verse below before you begin your group discussion.

Luke 24:25-27

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. NIV

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you remember most about this week's sermon?
2. The first picture that God gave man was when Adam and Eve sinned. What key points do you remember regarding the story of man's original sin in the Garden of Eden? What do these details infer?
 - a. God walking with man in the cool of the day.
 - b. The forbidden tree of knowledge of good and evil.
 - c. The covers that God made for Adam and Eve by the sacrifice of innocent animals.

Genesis 3:21 21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. NIV

- d. A sacrifice producing a form of death had to occur in light of man's original disobedience. How does this relate to the work of Christ on the cross?
 - e. The word "garments" (in Hebrew kethoneth) is the same word used for the clothing the priest had to wear when entering the presence of God in the tabernacle or temple. See Exodus 28:4, 28:39, 28:40, Exodus 29:5,8, 39:27, Leviticus 8:13. It was also the word used for the coat that Jacob made for the son he deeply loved, Joseph. See Genesis 37:32
3. The second picture is that of the priests transferring their sin to a bull and goat that was to be sacrificed in Exodus 29. Why did the priest lay their hands on the head of the bull when it was to be sacrificed?

Exodus 29:10-12

10 "Bring the bull to the front of the Tent of Meeting, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on its head. 11 Slaughter it in the LORD's presence at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. 12 Take some of the bull's blood and put it on the horns of the altar with your finger, and pour out the rest of it at the base of the altar. NIV

Exodus 29:15-18

15 "Take one of the rams, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on its head. 16 Slaughter it and take the blood and sprinkle it against the altar on all sides. 17 Cut the ram into pieces and wash the inner parts and the legs, putting them with the head and the other pieces. 18 Then burn the entire ram on the altar. It is a burnt offering to the LORD, a pleasing aroma, an offering made to the LORD by fire. NIV

4. On the Day of Atonement the priests were to enter the presence of the Lord. Before they could enter one goat had to be offered as a sacrifice, the other goat had to have the sin of the nation transferred upon it and carried away never to be seen again. How is this picture similar to the other pictures we have studied of ancient sacrifices?
5. What happened to two ancient priests that tried to enter the presence of God without a proper sacrifice? Their names were Nadab and Abihu.

Leviticus 10:1-3

1 Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. 2 So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. 3 Moses then said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke of when he said: "Among those who approach me I will show myself holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored." Aaron remained silent. NIV

6. According to Hebrews what has to be shed in order for sins to be removed?

Hebrews 9:21-22

22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. NIV

7. When God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son in Genesis 22 we have a picture of the ultimate sacrifice – a Father sacrificing a son that he loved. Who was this pointing to? A ram was sacrificed in place of Abraham's son as a substitute. Who was our substitute on the cross?

Genesis 22:2

2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." NIV

Genesis 22:13-14

13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.
14 So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." NIV

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. NIV

8. Isaiah 53 gives us an almost perfect picture of Jesus' sacrifice 700 years before the first Easter, God was painting an almost perfect picture of what he was planning to do to ultimately solve man's sin problem. (Read Isaiah 53 out loud as a group, see attached scriptures)
9. New Testament communion doesn't look forward but again a portrait makes us look back. The broken bread stands for what? The wine, or juice, produced by crushed grapes stands for what? See 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
10. Why do you think God uses symbols and pictures to teach us about his love?

CONCLUDING THOUGHT

God is the ultimate artist. He paints unforgettable pictures to communicate his awesome love for us.

SERMON SCRIPTURES**Luke 24:25-27**

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. NIV

James 2:26

26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. NIV

Genesis 3:8

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. NIV

Genesis 2:15-17

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." NIV

Genesis 3:1-11

1 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 surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat of 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. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." 11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" NIV

Genesis 3:21

21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them NIV

Genesis 3:21

21 GOD made leather clothing for Adam and his wife and dressed them.

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Genesis 3:21-24

21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. 22 And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." 23 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. NIV

Isaiah 59:2

2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. NIV

Isaiah 59:2

2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. KJV

Exodus 29:1

1 "This is what you are to do to consecrate them, so they may serve me as priests: Take a young bull and two rams without defect. NIV

1 Peter 2:9-10 (Ex 19:4-6)

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. NIV

Exodus 29:10-12

10 "Bring the bull to the front of the Tent of Meeting, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on its head. 11 Slaughter it in the LORD's presence at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. 12 Take some of the bull's blood and put it on the horns of the altar with your finger, and pour out the rest of it at the base of the altar. NIV

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Isaiah 53

1 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the

punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. 9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. 11 After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light [of life] and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. NIV

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. KJV

Upcoming Events at . . .



APRIL

- Sunday 19th Starting Point classes begin; 10:10am in Education Building
- Sunday 19th Marriage Class by Pastor Danny; 10:10am in Education Building
Waiting List available; sign-up at Information Center
- 19th Pre-Marriage Class (4 weeks); 10:10am in Education Building
Pre-requisite for a wedding performed by a Bay Shore Pastor
- Thursday 23rd Seniors Luncheon
Come join us for a covered dish lunch. Call the office for more details.

MAY

- Sunday 17th Biker Sunday (11am service)
- Sunday 31st & June 7th Membership Classes / 10:10am in Education Building

JUNE

- Sunday 7th Water Baptism
- Sunday 14th Baby Dedication

(Further information about all Events is available at the Information Center.)