



The Book of Matthew Lesson 10 2Q 2016 Jesus in Jerusalem

I received this email from Gary in Canada:

As you know last month C&R Canada grew by 9 people with the formation of the C&R branch in Yarmouth Nova Scotia. Well so far this month we have had one man ask to be baptized because of the Sure Word Bible Study program that C&R Canada Kentville branch puts on at a local non denominational outreach center known as Open Arms. But that's not all, the man's wife would like to do Bible studies and get baptized with her husband. She comes from a Jehovah's Witness background and because she did not follow the teachings of that organization in her youth, she and her family are shunned by some of the people from that organization. But she likes the changes she sees in her husband and she is now willing to do the studies. But wait there's more, one of the other men that comes to the class is looking at joining, or at least going to the local SDA church, but that's not all, yes there's more, his wife has been watching the C&R DVDs and is starting to get interested in the God is love teachings. But wait, there's more. I volunteer at Open Arms and work with men that are on their way to recovery from—well you name it. Anyway, one of the guys is working doing construction work with the first guy I mentioned, and he also would like to start doing Bible studies. Hold on just like the commercial there's more. We have a seasonal worker here from Jamaica, that likes the God of love not wrath approach to teaching and he would like to have C&R come to Jamaica this Dec and help set up a C&R branch there. His dream is to do full time evangelism. So if C&R Canada can work out some details I will go to Jamaica this Dec. Did you notice the time of year WINTER? Yes it's a hard job working with C&R but some one has to do it. God is good. But wait there's more, one of the professors at our local University, known as Acadia University is passing out your books to students that have shown a strong interest in the God of love. The best part of this last bit of news is some of the students are from other countries and other faiths and will be taking the books home with them this summer. Last but to me most important part is my thanks to the C&R class there in Tennessee and online and to all the supports of Come and Reason Ministries. Without you, all of the people just mentioned would have never heard this message at this time. And I believe God's timing is never wrong. Tell a friend share the News. This message changes lives and puts light where darkness once dwelled.

*Thank you for all your time and effort. God Bless you.
Gary.*

SABBATH

Read first paragraph, “In Matthew 20:27, 28, Jesus said...” How do we understand the idea of ransom?



This is a metaphor and one used to teach something about the atonement. And there are many theories about the atonement out there, and it is one of the issues that theologians get very animated about.

Let's review the reason Christ had to die, the idea of atonement through the seven levels of moral development and note how the various theories commonly taught in Christianity fit in:

1. **Reward and punishment:** Because God said don't do something, they disobeyed and did what God said not to do. This dishonored God. God was offended and in his justice responded with angry vengeance to execute the disobedient to satisfy his outrage. But Jesus stepped in and became humanity's substitute and God killed him in our place and is satisfied that his honor and justice are preserved. This is the Satisfaction Theory of Atonement.
2. **Marketplace exchange:** Because earth and humanity was now the legal property of Satan and under his control, the devil claimed legal rights to this earth and the lives of the sons of Adam and daughters of Eve. Therefore, God struck a bargain with the devil to exchange the life of Christ for the lives of the rest of humanity. This is the Ransom Theory of Atonement.
3. **Social conformity:** Because everyone must be convinced of the fairness of God in punishing sin. Somebody had to pay so that God can be seen as fair in how he deals with sin and sinners; and Jesus is the one who pays that price. This is the Governmental Theory of the Atonement.
4. **Law and order:** In this view, Jesus dies to pay the legal penalty the law demanded and the heavenly judge imposed. The law must be kept. Man broke the law and justice requires the imposition of the proper punishment. Someone had to be executed to pay the legal penalty. Jesus became our substitute, was executed in our place (by the Father as the righteous judge) to pay that penalty. The integrity of the law is maintained and sinners can be pardoned if they claim the legal payment made by Jesus. This is Penal Substitution Theory of Atonement.
5. **Love for others:** Because sin separated us from God and corrupted our hearts so that we no longer trusted God. But God loved us too much to let us go and Christ's death was the means to reach us with his love and restore us to trust in him. This is Moral Influence Theory of Atonement.
6. **Principle based living:** In this view, Christ's life, death and resurrection is understood to be the only means to fix what sin had done to God's creation. When mankind sinned the condition of humankind was changed to be out of harmony with God and his design for life. Humankind was now held in bondage by their own condition of sinfulness (carnal nature), their terminal state (death) and the lies about God told by Satan. Christ came to break these powers and fix what sin did do this creation. Thus "he who knew no sin became sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God." 2Cor 5:21. This is the Recapitulation *and* Christus Victor Theories of Atonement.
7. **Understanding Friend of God:** At this level the plan of salvation is understood to have a deeper and broader intent than just the redemption of the human species.

Level seven includes level five understanding that humanity was held captive by lies about God that undermines our ability to trust him. And that God loved us too much to let us go



therefore, so he sent Jesus who, as part of his mission, revealed truth to destroy Satan's lies in order to win us back to trust (morally influence). (Jn 8:32, Heb 2:14).

Level seven also includes all the elements of level six understanding, that human kind was not only held in bondage by the lies of Satan, but by our own carnal (selfish) natures. And that God through Christ not only destroyed the lies of Satan thereby destroying the devil's power (Heb 2:14), he also destroyed the carnal nature thereby destroying death, and perfectly restored God's law of love—God's character—back into the species human, thereby perfecting the species and bringing life and immortality to light. (2Tim 1:9,10, 1Jn 3:8, Heb 5:8,9) As the early church fathers would have said, Jesus picked up humankind broken off in Adam and carried it to completion.

But level seven also understands that God has a larger purpose than just saving humanity. God has also been working to secure the unfallen intelligences in their confidence, trust, and loyalty to him—to protect them from disaffection and keep them eternally safe. “All things *in heaven and in earth are reconciled to Christ at the cross.*” (Col 1:20 emphasis mine)

Atonement at level seven is understood in its true Biblical meaning of at-one-ment—complete unity with God—a universe without any deviation anywhere from God and his design of love. As Jesus himself prayed just before his crucifixion: “I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, *that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.* (Jn 17:20,21 emphasis mine)

This unity is the mystery of God. His secret plan to heal all who trust him, while eliminating all deviations from his design (sin and unrepentant sinners) in such a way that all the saved along with the unfallen intelligences will be solidified in the unshakable unity of love and trust. This is only possible through the accomplishments of Jesus Christ:

And he made known to us the *mystery* of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to *bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.* (Eph 1:9,10 emphasis mine)

This is the Healing Plan of Atonement.

Now when Christ used the metaphor of ransom for many, was He speaking of the level two concepts we just reviewed? No, what happens is that people operating at level two hear the ransom metaphor and apply to level two understanding. But Christ's metaphors are understandable through level 7 understanding.

So ransom through level seven—what does a ransom do? It is the price necessary to free someone held in bondage. What holds sinners in bondage?



The lies about God that we believe that keep us from trusting Him, AND our own carnal natures. What then is the price necessary to free us? The truth that will destroy the lies and free our minds to trust, and a new perfect nature/character, and Jesus provides both and both could only be achieved by His sinless life, selfless death and resurrection!

To whom was such a price paid? To us! We are the ones who needed the truth and we are the ones who needed a new nature, and thus ransom rightly understood confirms level seven, God's Healing Plan.

SUNDAY

The lesson focuses on the time the Jews returned from 70 years captivity and rebuilt the temple. The elders who had seen Solomon's temple cried in distress because the new temple was so small, but God had His prophets prophecy that the second temple would be more glorious than the first temple—how? How was the second temple more glorious?

Because Jesus walked there? But didn't God's presence come physically to the first temple when it was dedicated? So God's presence blessed both temples, why is the second more glorious?

Because God's glory is not power—it is character! And Jesus revealed God's selfless character of love more perfectly at the second temple than the first.

So, then what would it mean when the first angel of the three angels of Revelation 14 says to "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water." Rev 14:7

Would it have something to do with character? How do we glorify God?

²² "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, **but for the sake of my holy name**, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. ²³ **I will show the holiness of my great name**, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. **Then the nations will know that I am the Lord**, declares the Sovereign Lord, **when I show myself holy through you before their eyes.**

²⁴ " 'For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶ **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.** ²⁷ **And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.** (Eze 36:22-27)



In the Bible, what is the name representative of? Character, so God is saying His character has been misrepresented by the people who claim to represent Him. Did the Jews misrepresent God? Have Christians misrepresented God? And what is it that God does to reveal His true name/character? He transforms the character/hearts of the people to be like Him!

This is in harmony with the message of the 3 angels, that God is waiting for people who come to know Him and trust Him and He will transform them to be like Him in character—to love like He loves!

The bottom paragraph is commenting on Christ's entry into Jerusalem riding upon a donkey, and states, "The multitude were convinced that the hour of their emancipation was at hand. In imagination they saw the Roman armies driven from Jerusalem, and Israel once more an independent nation."

Was their emancipation at hand? Yes, but from what? Was Christ about to accomplish what was necessary to free humanity from the bondage of sin? Absolutely, so their emancipation was at hand, this was true—but what was the problem with Israel? They misunderstood their situation. They had the wrong diagnosis. They thought their problem was bondage to Rome, when their problem was bondage to sin. Thus, they were looking for an earthly deliverance, rather than deliverance from sin.

What about Christianity today? Do many have the same problem? Do many accept a false diagnosis and thus a false solution? What would be the common false diagnosis? That sin is a legal problem and thus people are seeking delivery from a legal punishment, rather than realizing we are sinful in heart and mind and need delivering from sin, NOT delivering from God's punishment for sin.

In the bottom pink section it states, "Again and again, we see how Scripture was fulfilled, and yet at the time, the people didn't understand it. What lessons might we take away for ourselves about how preconceived notions could distort truth?"

thoughts? Do we as Christians struggle with the same problem, being duped in believing in the wrong type of delivery?

The Jews 2000 years ago were looking for delivery from a human government—are Christians today? Are Christians today teaching a theology that is promoting delivery from a human law construct? The idea of imposed law that requires punishment by the ruling authority?

MONDAY

The first paragraph states, "From the earliest days of fallen humanity, animal sacrifices were God's chosen means to teach the world the plan of salvation, salvation by grace through faith in the coming Messiah... Thus when God called Israel as His chosen people, 'a kingdom of priests and a holy nation' (Exod. 19:6 NKJV). he also established the sanctuary service as a fuller and more complete explanation of salvation."



What was the purpose of the animal sacrifices and what did they teach?

On a Christian radio program before Easter a person called in and asked why the animal sacrifices in the OT and this was the explanation given by one of the guest theologians:

The reason in Leviticus 17 for...that there has to be punishment with death for sin, and so in Leviticus 17 when the animal sacrificial system is being established it says this, Leviticus 17:10 “Any Israelite or any alien living among them who eats any blood—I will set my face against that person who eats blood and will cut him off from his people. For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.” See blood represents life and there has to be the punishment of death for sin, so therefore an animal had to take the punishment and give its life—it’s blood—so that the offerer could live. That was the substitution. What my former professor here at Moody used to call, the exchange of life.

What are the problems with this explanation?

- It is based on imposed law and the requirement of payment to expiate sin
- It argues for a means of salvation without Christ, that in some way an animal was sufficient to deal with sin
- It makes the problem legal rather than a condition of being
- It denies much of the Old Testament evidence of people being saved without animal sacrifices

Notice the Biblical evidence:

- “The multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?” says the Lord. “I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats... wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.” (Isa 1:11,16,17)
- With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Mic 6:6-8)
- the gifts and sacrifices being offered were *not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper*. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order... But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because *it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins*. (Heb 9:9,10; 10:3,4 emphasis mine)

But perhaps Hosea puts what God wants, what he has always wanted and been working to achieve, most succinctly:



- “I want your constant love, not your animal sacrifices. I would rather have my people know me than burn offerings to me.” (Hos 6:6 GNT)

Do we have examples of people being saved in OT who did not participate in animal sacrifices?

- Naaman
- Nebuchadnezzar
- Melchizedek
- Daniel and his three friends
- Esther and Mordecai
- Jethro
- The widow and resurrected son who housed Elijah

So what was the purpose of the animal sacrifices? Animal sacrifices were merely teaching tools, lessons, designed to teach what?

What do you think was the primary purpose of such sacrifice?

Take a moment and imagine you had to personally take a lamb, so cute, gentle, cuddly, and because of your sin look into its trusting eyes and cut its throat and watch it die, while it looked at you—what would that teach you? Would it make you sick? Would it cause a revulsion inside of you so that you would never want to sin again? Would it cause a hatred of sin? Could this be the first, foremost, and primary point of the animal sacrifices? Could all the other theological lessons be secondary?

What are the lessons we are to learn from animal sacrifices?

- Sin kills not God
- God provides the sacrifice necessary to remedy the sin problem
- Sin severs the circulation (the circle of love) the law of life and results in death
- Without a substitute to cure our condition all humanity will die of this terminal state
- The Savior would be as gentle and non-threatening to us as a lamb
- They ate the meat of the sacrificial animal, indicating that we must internalize what the life of Jesus—the Lamb of God in order to be restored to unity with God

TUESDAY

The lesson focuses on Jesus cleansing the temple, read second paragraph, “But the cleansing...” When the authors merge “judgment” with “reap the results of their doleful choices” what is the likely conclusion?



Is it suggesting the results of poor choices, sin, are those of a judicial system? Are they suggesting the results that come to sinners is like the results that come to those who speed and get ticketed? In other words, are they suggesting the results are those of an imposed law construct?

What if they used diagnosis and debridement instead? When a wound is filled with gravel or dirt in order to heal the wound the dirt needs to be cleaned out—this is called debridement. Was Jesus debriding the sanctuary, removing infecting elements in order for healing to occur? Does it make a difference to see Jesus acting as an enforcer inflicting punishment, or as a Savior debriding and healing?

Read third paragraph, “Jesus cursed the fig tree...” Is a fig tree a free moral agent capable of love, loyalty or selfishness and rebellion? Then, could the fig tree sin? Then could the fig tree be punished for sin? Then what was happening? Jesus was providing an object lesson, what was the lesson?

What would be the wrong lesson to draw from the enactment? The wrong lesson is that God uses His power to inflict death upon sinners.

The right lesson is that God pronounces or diagnosis the condition of each person accurately, the tree was used as an object lesson to reveal this.

WEDNESDAY

Read top sentence, “If you had a few days left to live, what would you do with them?”

The lesson asks us to read MT 21:33-46, this is from *The Remedy*:

³³ "Consider another parable: A developer planted a vineyard on his property. He put a security fence around it, built a watchtower, and constructed a winepress. Then he leased the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a trip.³⁴ When the harvest was due, he sent a servant to collect his portion of the fruit.³⁵ The farmers attacked the servants: they beat one, murdered another, and stoned a third.³⁶ The owner sent more servants, but they were all abused and despised in the same way.³⁷ Finally, he sent his only son, thinking, 'They will honor my son.'³⁸ But when the farmers saw the son, they greedily said to each other, 'This is the heir to this property. Come on, let's kill him and claim the inheritance for ourselves!'³⁹ So they grabbed the son, dragged him out of the vineyard, abused, and then killed him.⁴⁰ Now, what do you think the owner will do to these farmers when he comes to his vineyard?"

⁴¹ They answered, "He'll destroy those scoundrels and lease the vineyard to others, who will give him his portion of the harvest."

⁴² Jesus looked straight at them and said, "Exactly! But somehow, you fail to understand what you read in the Scriptures where it says, 'The stone rejected by those in charge of building has become the foundation stone; God has made sure it would be this way and it is incredible to us.'"



⁴³ "So let me make this plain to you: God's kingdom of love and truth will be taken away from you who cling to lies and selfishness, and given to those who will bring forth fruit of righteousness.⁴⁴ Whoever falls down on this stone will be broken in pieces of humility, but the weight of truth from this stone will crush whomever it falls upon."

⁴⁵ When the church leaders, lawyers and theologians heard Jesus' parables, they understood very clearly that he was talking about them.⁴⁶ They schemed for ways to arrest him, but were afraid to take action because the crowds were huge, and the majority of people thought Jesus was a spokesman of God.

The lesson asks us to identify the various characters:

- The Landowner—God
- Farmers—Jews
- Servants—God's spokespersons/prophets
- Son—Jesus
- New Tenants—Christians

Read bottom pink section, "Two different ways..." Jesus is the rock, if we fall upon Him in humility our selfish hearts are broken and we are rebuilt by God into His image. But, if instead the weight of truth that is embodied in Jesus falls upon the heart and mind of an unrepentant person—what happens? They cry out for the mountains to fall on them—they are crushed by it.

THURSDAY

What do you think of the title—The Cost of Grace? What is the cost of grace? Read third paragraph, "When we look at the Cross..."

Did it cost God a lot to deal with the sin problem? Absolutely—does that mean the price is a legal price?

What do you make of the idea of bearing God's wrath against sin—what is God's wrath against sin?

What law model do you view it through? If imposed law, then there is nothing inherently wrong with sin and if God doesn't act then no bad happens, so God must act and inflict pain and suffering and death. Thus, in this penal legal model God becomes the source of pain, suffering and death and Christians create doctrines designed to hide and protect us from God rather than reconcile us to Him.

In the design law model, sin is deviation from God's law upon which life is constructed, and results in pain suffering and death. If God doesn't act death ensues. Therefore, God acted through Jesus to provide remedy to our terminal condition. In this view God's wrath is His cessation of interventions to hold at bay what unremedied sin brings—i.e. God letting go to reap what one chooses.

Which view is more Biblical?



Romans 1:18-34—God’s wrath is revealed... he gave them up, three times Paul says this, indicating what God actually does.

And what did God do to Jesus on the Cross—He gave Jesus up to reap what Jesus freely chose—God did not intervene to stop it, thus Jesus experienced God’s wrath on the Cross.

And Paul ties it all together in Romans 4:25 when referring to Jesus on the Cross, he uses the exact same Greek as in Romans 1:24,26, 28 where he says “God gave them up.” However, most translators disguise the exact language by expressing it differently, such as “delivered over” rather than “given up.”

The lesson is about the parable of the wedding feast found in Matthew 22, and a person without a wedding garment is cast out, what does this teach?

Read last paragraph, “The garment represents...”

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions 1 and 2



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Remedy—Is Now Available in Print Version in the US. We have printed 10,000 to give away and will reassess demand for them after those are gone. We are shipping a small number to Canada and Australia. **How to get copies:** In the US email orders@comeandreason.com with a valid US postal address; In Canada email canada@comeandreason.com and in Australia/New Zealand email Australia@comeandreason.com and request the number you want and we will ship them to you. If you are giving them away please give them only to people who want them. In other words, don't put one at every seat in the church, or place setting at a potluck, or car in a parking lot. Such distribution methods result in vast numbers being thrown away. Let people know they are free and allow them to take one if they want too works best.

The Remedy – Dr. Jennings' New Testament Paraphrase—FREE for ios and android systems.

The God-Shaped Brain is now available in Korean and is available at this website: http://book.naver.com/bookdb/book_detail.nhn?bid=9519886

The Journal of the Watcher is now available as a HARD COVER book at Amazon as well as a movie in itunes for everyone without ios or android in itunes. It is also available as an APP for Apple and Android devices.

Thursday, June 9 at 1:30 PM Eastern Time Dr. Jennings will appear on the *Lifestyle Magazine* show, "Healing The Mind" that he recorded previously. It is scheduled to air on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). Keep in mind that TBN can preempt the show at their discretion.

October 14-16: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Drakensville, South Africa Campmeeting.

October 19, 20: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Ladismith South Africa (venue to be determined)

October 21, 22: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Cape Town, South Africa