

Power in the Blood
Stewarding the Presence Series, Part 19

Pilate then took Jesus and scourged Him. 2 And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and put a purple robe on Him; 3 and they began to come up to Him and say, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and to give Him slaps in the face. 4 Pilate came out again and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you so that you may know that I find no guilt in Him." 5 Jesus then came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold, the Man!"

We all know that scourging was brutal and cruel. It was used on people that were found guilty or that needed to confess to a crime. The cords of the whip contained bone, rock, glass, and other things so that it would literally tear flesh from the back of the criminal. Many people were knocked unconscious during scourging, some went into shock, and others even died. What I find fascinating is that twice now Pilate is declaring Jesus is innocent and there is no fault in Him. Jesus was innocent and blameless for all humanity. In the Old Testament, when an animal was to be sacrificed, it was first observed and checked. It had to be perfect with no defect or blemish. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice not for one man but for all of humanity that was lost.

*6 So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out saying, "Crucify, crucify!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him." 7 The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law He ought to die because He made Himself out to be the Son of God." 8 Therefore when Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid; 9 and he entered into the Praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 So Pilate said to Him, "You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?" 11 Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." 12 As a result of this Pilate made efforts to release Him, but the Jews cried out saying, "If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar." 13 Therefore when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. 14 Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!" 15 So they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." 16 So he then handed Him over to them to be crucified. – John 19:1-16
NASB1995*

Jesus, the perfect sacrifice was standing before God's people. He had not yet been crucified, yet He was already bleeding His innocent and precious blood. The answer to all of their problems, the answer to their eternal destination, their very salvation stood before them, and they all cried out "we have no king but Caesar." They were not realizing how precious the blood was.

What can wash away our sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Robert Lowry wrote that hymn in 1876 and we are still singing it to this day. Why? Because there is power in the blood of Jesus. Today we are continuing in our

series (which we are almost done with) titled *Stewarding the Presence*. We are walking through the Gospel of John to learn from Jesus. We want to see how Jesus remained in an abiding relationship with the Father through all the attacks and trials He faced. Today, the title of the message is *Power in the Blood*. We know blood is a powerful thing. Look at what Leviticus says about blood:

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.”
– *Leviticus 17:11 NASB1995*

As much as blood is life for our physical bodies, the blood of Jesus is life to our spirit and for all eternity. Real quick, just out of my curiosity, how many people here are not good with the sight of blood? My grandfather began medical school at UCLA and dropped out the moment he saw a dead body. Nikki had an uncle that passed out when his wife was giving birth. The doctors had to split their attention from the one giving birth to the one bleeding on the floor. I remember when Gabe was maybe two years old, he fell out of his bed and hit the corner of the metal bedframe. I freaked out because there was so much blood. I didn't know it then, but the head bleeds a lot. Blood isn't my most favorite thing to talk about, but I will talk about the blood of Jesus every day of my life. Why? Because it is everything.

The idea of blood covering sins began all the way back in the garden. Adam and Eve sinned (didn't take mankind that long to sin) and *they* tried to cover themselves up with fig leaves. In their sin they saw their nakedness and tried to cover their shame. Did you notice that the first reaction Adam made when he heard the voice of the Lord after he sinned was to hide from God? So, God made coverings for them made out of animal skin. That meant that something had to die in order to cover the sin because the wages of sin is death. From there we see all kinds of sacrifices from Isaac in Genesis to the lambs in the Passover in Exodus. Eventually God established a Law and system of sacrifices to temporarily cover someone's sin. When you brought a sacrifice to the Lord you would lay your hand on the head of the perfect animal. It was symbolic that your sins were being transferred to the animal and the animal's innocence transferred to you and then the animal dies in your place. **Romans 5:9** says, “we have been justified by the blood of Jesus, how much more shall we be saved from the wrath of God?” Then in **2 Corinthians 5:21** it says, “He made Him who knew no sin to become sin so that we may become the righteousness of God.”

By the blood of Jesus, you and I have been saved, healed, delivered, and given authority over every evil thing. But there is one main problem. In the same way that the Jews stood before the perfect Sacrifice and rejected Him, you and I can know of the power of the blood of Jesus and yet act as if He was never crucified. Jesus' death and resurrection changed everything. We have become new creations in Christ, given royal identity, and have become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. That's why we need to be careful with our words. There's a popular new preacher on social media with a large growing church. His sermons are getting something like 2 million views on YouTube. But when I hear him preach, I hear him say things like, “The church doesn't need sermons to make them feel good about themselves. The church needs to be told you are sinners, your rotten to the core and you need to repent!” That sounds all holy, but it is wrong. You and I are not sinners, we are saints who somethings sin and need to repent. We are not rotten

to the core we are hidden in Christ and the living Spirit of God dwells in us. If you You're going to behave according to what you believe so it is vital you believe the truth about you according to the blood. That's why I love in **1 John 1:8** it says, "if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves." He doesn't say, "If we say we are not sinners, we deceive ourselves" no he says sins. Or in **1 Timothy 1:15**, Paul calls himself the "chief of sinners." However, in context this verse is talking about past sins and failures. The Greek word here for "sinner" is an adjective which is describing a noun. We are talking about our position here. We are saints who sometimes sin.

Now on the other hand, some people take it too far. Us Pentecostals are famous for the phrase "I plead the blood." Although that term is not found in the Bible, it is not necessarily wrong. You are declaring the power of the blood of Jesus, and you are giving thanks for the blood of Jesus applied. It is when we have a wrong perspective of pleading and turn "I plead the blood" into a formula that we get in trouble. To illustrate this point, I thought I would show you a little video clip of the 90's movie *The Little Rascals*. There's a scene about pleading I want you to see. (Show Video Clip)

Pleading is not begging. Pleading is a legal declaration. "How do you plead?" You would state innocent because that's the truth. I did nothing wrong, and I will prove it with the truth." When you plead the blood, you are declaring over something the enemy did and legally using your authority to declare God's truth so that it will come under submission to the power of God. But you cannot plead a truth is you are not aware of the truth. So, today I want to walk through five realities of the blood of Jesus we need to walk in. I saw one sermon online that had 30 realities of the blood of Jesus. There are many more, but I want to look at some of the top realities. If you are taking notes, please fill out number one.

Five Realities of the Blood We Need to Walk In

#1 – Forgiveness.

There have been a few times in my life where I had a debt forgiven or a blessing came in that allowed me to wipe away a big financial burden. When we sold our house in California back in 2017, we walked away with 117k. That was a good day. We paid off two cares, all my student loan debt, medical bills, credit cards and everything else. I'm sure there are many in those room who have experienced the same thing. Either being forgiven of a debt or something like a large tax return that allowed you to get out from under a bad financial place. It is so freeing. I was a miracle how my family and I survived financially in California. When we were able to pay off all that debt, everything changed. Our monthly budget was completely changed, our credit score was changed, and most importantly the time and energy used to figure out money was gone. I was more at peace; I could think differently about my future. It changed everything and the forgiveness of your sins by the blood of Jesus should have changed everything:

***"For this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins."
– Matthew 26:28 NASB1995***

The reality of your righteousness should eclipse the shame of your past. Paul said in Galatians 2:20 “It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith...” My bad behavior doesn’t define me, my position as a son of God does.

#2 – Nearness.

Ephesians 2:13 says:

“But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” – Ephesians 2:13 NASB1995

I have this little joke in the house that when someone calls my name I say, “nope.” I don’t even give them a chance to even ask the question. Why? Because typically it is a request before anything else. Oh, dad’s home? “Can you do this or can you do that.” Of course, I don’t mind doing things for my family, but I say that little joke to remind them that relationship is not all about requests. Sometimes if the first thing out of their mouth is a request, I will ignore the question and say, “I’m doing great how are you?” Yes, the blood of Jesus brought us forgiveness, deliverance, freedom, peace, and authority...but the most important thing the blood of Jesus did is brought us near to Him. We have been reconciled to the Father. We can come boldly before the throne of grace.

One thing I like about David is his desire for the one thing. In my favorite Psalm, 27:4 David says, “One thing I have asked the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life to behold the beauty of the Lord.” David talked to God. He didn’t have formulas or rituals. He desired to be with God any means necessary.

#3 – Identity.

Galatians 2:20 says this:

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.” – Galatians 2:20 NASB1995

I speak on the topic of identity all the time here and the whole theme of the second book I published is all about our identity as a child of God. Knowing our identity is so important on many levels. Our identity reveals how God sees us, it reveals how we see ourselves, and it positions us to be *like* Jesus in this world. We saw a couple weeks ago in **John 17:18** Jesus prays, “As You (Father) have sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.” Jesus even said in John 14:12 “Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and even *greater* works than these he will do.”

I encourage you to walk through this wonderful devotion about identity:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/622e40e6868f7a411d8bd674/t/66821ebcd328e35e0a134941/1719803580483/KCC_Daniel_Courageous21_Printable.pdf

#4 – Peace.

“And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross.” – Colossians 1:20 NASB1995

When I was a church planter and worked a day job as a maintenance man, I had a pretty embarrassing moment while working. I’m in this 60k square foot warehouse and have my headphones in while spot sweeping the floors. I was surrounded by 120 employees. Then I just start sobbing in the middle of the warehouse. Why you ask? Because I was listening to an audio book by Corrie Ten Boom. She said, “In the Bible God says that He hides us under the *shadow* of His wing. There’s not a lot of light under a wing. That means that sometimes when it feels the darkest, it means God is the closest.” Then all these employees get to see a Mexican fall apart and cry seemingly for no reason. I am so grateful that the blood of Jesus satisfied the wrath of God and I know have peace with Him. I am so grateful that when Jesus said in **John 14:27** He would give us His peace it was not like the world. I’m so grateful the Apostle Paul said in **Philippians 4:7** “and the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. If you are going through a season of anxiety or fear you need to remind yourself and declare that the blood of Jesus gives you peace. It is a gift. It is yours.

#5 – Power.

Finally in Revelation 12:11 it says:

“And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony...” – Revelation 12:11 NASB1995

I saw a meme a while back where a man was sitting on a couch and says, “I lost 60 pounds in three months.” The interviewer says, “That’s impossible.” To which the guy said, “First off, all things are possible through Christ, so jot that down.” **Acts 1:8** says, “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses.”

One powerful truth we need to understand is that the enemy no longer has power. Yes, he had power in the Old Testament after the fall, but Jesus destroyed the works of the devil and rendered the devil powerless (**1 John 3:8; Hebrews 2:18**). Now, you and I have power in the name of Jesus because of the blood. That challenges us to walk in the power of Jesus over the enemy, over the world, and over our circumstances.

Let me conclude with this. We didn’t read in John 19 verse 28-30 which says:

28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, “I am thirsty.” 29 A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop and brought it up to His mouth. 30 Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. – John 19:28-30 NASB1995

I pray you wake up every morning this week saying “thank You Jesus it is finished.”