

Jesus Saw You From His Cross

Friday, September 4, 2020

I woke up this day with the words from a song, “I’ll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.” It made me think about the cost Jesus paid for me to see my sins. The revelation today was not only that I saw my sins that crucified Jesus, but that Jesus saw me personally alongside my ungodly deeds as He hung on the cross. He did not just suffer the weight of sin generally that all humans are subject to; Perfect Love saw the faces of people He created who hated Him and rejected Him, which added to the unbearable weight of His physical suffering.

It does not hurt as much when we do not know the people who rejected us or talked against us, but when their words and deeds come into the light and we put a face to our rejection, it tears us apart. As God, Jesus understood that we are flesh, but as a man, He suffered in all points as we do (Heb. 4:15). So, like a man, on the cross He wrestled over forgiving us. He saw the likes of Al Capone, Hitler, and Stalin, and likewise the tyrants in families and government officials with their abuses of power; He saw the terrorists, racists, adulterers, thieves, rapists, arsonists, and if there could be a distinction, society’s worst of the worst. He took in the rage and inner turmoil of both victims and perpetrators. No man could endure the weight of so much evil and not feel justified in terminating his oppressor, but because Jesus was no mere man, and because He endured the contradictions, or disobedience, of all sinners (Heb. 12:3), He could say on the cross, “*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do*” (Lk. 23:34 NKJV). And Jesus saw another picture, the day when many of His tormentors would see the weight of their own sins that put Him on the cross, and in a selfless act of love, the shedding of His own blood to remit them, so they could be reconciled to God through the liberty of the Gospel (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:38) He came to preach. With this, Jesus became the author and finisher of our faith so that we might also do the same.

There can be no remission of sins, nor any relief from the hatred infecting the earth like a virus, without forgiveness. It is time to look at the faces of those we know who have offended us, and the faces of those we have offended, and settle accounts (Matt 18:23-35). The Savior of the world is asking no more of us than what the Father asked of Him—forgive—and if we do forgive, we will be forgiven, and the blessings of freedom and liberty will follow us.

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