

HE LIFTED ME

Communion Meditation

In the early days of the ministry of Jesus, He said to Nicodemus, "And, as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so, must the Son of man be lifted up." Then at the end of His ministry He said, "And I, if I be lifted up will draw all men unto Me."

Jesus was lifted when He was crucified. They nailed Him to the cross and lifted it up, and dropped it into a hole that shook the foundations of hell. But He was not only lifted up on the cross, He was also lifted up from the grave on the third day when He was raised up from the dead. Lifted up on the cross, lifted up from the grave and then He was lifted up again at the time of His ascension - Lifted up all the way to heaven.

Think of it. He was lifted up in prophecy as the serpent on the pole, lifted up on the cross, lifted up in the resurrection, and lifted up in the ascension, and when He returns He will lift us up from the earth to meet Him in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

As we are lifted up to meet Him in the air we could say in the words of the gospel song: "With tender hand He lifted me—From sinking sand He lifted me—From shades of night to realms of light—O praise His name He lifted me."

But that is not all. When we have lived for serval million years in Heaven; without question our favorite gospel hymn might very well be: "Love lifted me, love lifted me, when nothing else could help, love lifted me." But for the present as we eat the loaf and drink the cup in memory of the One who was lifted up on the cross, lifted up from the grave and lifted up into heaven; what better thought for us than this: "I was sinking deep in sin far from the peaceful shore—Very deeply stained within sinking to rise no more—But the Master of the sea heard my despairing cry from the waters lifted me now safe am I." EB

EYE SALVE AND SIN

As Jesus passed by, He saw a man blind from his birth, it was not just a passing glance, He stopped and observed him. At this point the Apostles engaged the Lord in that question. This is a popular explanation. Some are quick to point out a calamity that befell some people was God's judgment for a sin they had committed. Actually such things can happen to anybody. Some of the best Christians I know have died early in life. I have known of very devout Christians who have died suddenly with a heart attack. How about the Apostle James? He died an untimely death by decapitation. How could the Lord spare an Apostle? The Lord can do without any of us. I have seen James die at twenty two, twenty six, forty, and forty seven. Christians can get cancer and heart attacks just as much as the worst of sinners. God can do without any of us, but we cannot do without God.

Did this man sin or his parents? How could a man sin before he was born? One way they may have thought this possible would be in the case of Esau and Jacob.

In Genesis 25:22 Rebekah conceived and the children struggled together within her: and she said, "If it be so why am I thus?" And the Lord said unto her, "Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels . . ." Again it may seem to some that they may have believed in reincarnation . This teaching finds no backing from the inspired word of God. Hebrews chapter nine tells us it is appointed for man once to die and after this the judgment. It would be bad enough to be tried for the sins done in one body without having to give account for the deeds done in 30 different bodies in 30 different lifetimes. There is just one lifetime to a customer.

As far as the physical is concerned we can see how this man could have suffered because of his parents. How about the sin of Old Daddy Adam? Paul tells us by one man sin came into the world and death by sin. Just one sin was all it took to kill the whole human race. Think of the power of one sin. If one sin could result in the death of all men how much damage can six of our sins do to your eternal soul? We have no idea of the power of sin. It is so powerful that it took the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ to pay the price of our redemption.

Then again we can look at their question from the standpoint of our own observation. The sins of the parents today have caused the children to sin. If the parents have set the example of no time for God, the Bible or the Lord's church, the parents to all intents and purposes have put their kids on a greased toboggan sled and let them slide right in to hell.

Then again at the present time they might ask if the mother was a chain smoker, or did she snort cocaine? That might have done it. Did she have AIDS or syphilis that might result in blindness for the baby? Was the father drunk when the child was conceived? Was it the fault of the parents? They evidently connected his condition with sin one way or the other. That is a natural instinct as far as man is concerned. We always connect sin with judgment.

In this case while the apostles reasoned as to the cause of his blindness, Jesus was more concerned as how best to help him. He said we must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day, the night cometh when no man can work. Our time on earth is compared to one day. We need to understand that none of us know when sunset will come in each life. For some our day is extended, for some it comes quickly. There is no time to waste. The scripture teaches, "Redeem the time for the days are evil."

Some may think they may have many years of service left, but James reminds us, "Say not we will go to this city or that city and continue there a year or so and buy and sell and get gain for ye know not what shall be on the morrow. Your life is a vapor that appeared for a short time and vanished away."

So He spit on the ground and made clay of spittle and anointed his eyes with the clay and told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam. The man did and same seeing. Is there no eye salve for us today? Jesus made him some eye salve. Jesus wants to give us eye salve. The Church at Laodicea in Revelation three said they were rich and had need of nothing. That is the way they saw themselves. Jesus said, "You don't know it, but you are wretched, miserable, blind and naked." Then He told them to get some eye salve and anoint their eyes that thou mayst see. We need some eye salve. There is no better eye salve than the word of God. Read the Great Commission in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and you will be able to see much better the need to evangelize the lost. The work of the church is not entertainment, and building bigger buildings. The main work of the church is saving souls. Put on some eye salve and you will be able to see that Holy men spake from of old as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. Put on some eye salve and you will be able to see that city that hath foundations whose builder and maker is God. Take a liberal dose of the eye salve of God's word every day and you will be surprised how your vision will change.

NO SUBSTITUTE FOR JESUS

The first time love is mentioned in the Old Testament is when God told Abraham, "Take now thy son thine only

son Isaac whom thou lovest and offer him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I will tell thee." The first time the word love is mentioned in the New Testament is when God said; "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Both first times love is first mentioned, is the love of the Father and the Son.

And so it was, that Isaac was bound and laid on the altar. Abraham stretched forth his hand and took the knife to slay his son. His hand was raised, at that moment an angel called unto him from Heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham" and he said, "Here I am." The angel said, "Lay not thy hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing that thou has not withheld the son, thine only son from me." By saving the life of Isaac God shows that human sacrifice is not acceptable. This was a sin that Stephen accused Israel of doing in his defense before he was stoned. He reminded them that their ancestors had taken up the tabernacle of Molech. In Second Kings 21 there is an example of King Mannaseh making his son pass through the fire to Molech. Molech had a hollow belly. A fire was inside. His arms were outstretched in a cradle position. The infant was laid on the red hot arms as a sacrifice. The thunderous beating of drums drowned out the screams of the infant so that the mother could not hear. This was one of the sins that resulted in the Babylonian captivity. One wonders what fate awaits America as the millions of babies are sacrificed in the modern day Moloch of abortion. Those who abort call it terminating the pregnancy. That term-terminate the pregnancy-somewhat silences the screams of the butchered infant. Actually the sacrifice of Isaac would not have been acceptable because the sacrifice that was prefigured here had to be perfect. The lamb of sacrifice was always examined for imperfections before sacrifice. Nothing less could satisfy the demands of justice but the perfect Lamb of God who was examined and was declared to be perfect; tempted in all points like as we are and yet without sin. The only sacrifice the Lord requires in us is what Paul said in Romans 12:1, "I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice unto God, which is your reasonable service." Hear it again, "Lay not thine hand upon the lad." Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw a ram caught in the thicket by the horns and he took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering instead of his son. Isaac was a type of the Lord Jesus Christ in many points. But there is one thing that is missing; the ram was the substitute for Isaac. There was no substitute for Jesus on the cross. Peter said, "There is therefore no other name under Heaven whereby we must be saved." There is no other Savior, there is no other plan. So Abraham built an altar there and called the name of the place Jehovah-jireh. Which means the Lord will provide. In the amount of the Lord it shall be seen. Abraham saw the place. Where was this place? It is identified as being in the mountains of Moriah. Solomon built the Temple on one of the Mounts of Moriah. Some seem to think the place where Abraham went was that very spot. There is another possibility, Mount Calvary, the place of a skull, was also there. Golgotha was 40 feet higher than the Temple. While we don't know for sure it is significant that

Abraham traveled three days to get there. That place of the offering of Isaac must have some significance. Abraham called it Jehovah-jirah. In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen. Could it be the place where Abraham offered up Isaac was the very spot where the Lord Jesus was crucified for our sins? Whether it is the actual place of the cross or the temple; Abraham with prophetic vision could look across the chasm of almost 2,000 years and see there would be no substitute for the Son of God. And so when I stand in the water and immerse a person into Christ—baptizing them into His death - I can say with Abraham, Jehovah-jirah. This is Mount Calvary! This is the hill of Golgotha. This is the Mount of the Lord. (*Excerpted from Ed's sermon: ABRAHAM OFFERS ISAAC*)

Letters



Good day! My name is Elena, I live far away from you in Belarus, but in spite of that I know about you and I

am a regular listen with you and your family by your Radio station on the Internet for several years. One I really love and hopefully and more you will delight us with your interesting programs I've heard a lot about. I would ask that you to send me something from your Radio program, if possible so as I know you received this letter: Thank you, have a nice day!

Elena K. (Belarus, is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe bordered by Russia to the northeast, Ukraine to the south, Poland to the west. PTL GIJAPA's shortwave broadcast reaches to these far countries because of your gifts each month! Thank you and God bless you for helping GIJAPA reach the lost throughout the world!)

Dear Mr. Bousman,

I found your program accidently on KDWN, Las Vegas, NV. Your theme song is so beautiful. Is it possible to get a tape or CD of it? I would also like to have sheet music so my daughter could play it for me on the piano. I live in Banning, CA, just 20 miles west of Palm Springs. I guess it is amazing that I get your program here. It comes in Sunday night at 10:30 PM. I also like the way you do your program: Reading scripture with background music, quoting an old hymn. It prepares the way for sermon. Thank you so much.

Sincerely, Sharon

Dear GIJAPA,

I am writing to encourage you in the great work you do. Before I screwed up I was radio DJ, ham operator and had a shortwave receiver that cold pick up the great stations like HCJB in Quito, Equador. I am looking forward to hearing your program on shortwave again when I get out. Give 'em heaven and God bless.

Tom in the Stiles Prison Unit; Beaumont, TX

Dear Naomi,

My name is Jesus Jimenez. I'm an inmate in Travis

County Jail. I just want to better myself in life and for my family. I have five kids - four girls and one boy. I want to be a better father to them and show them the right way to live. I grew up in a bad place in Austin, TX. I never finished school, I had to take care of my sister and my mom. Do you have a KJV Bible so I can show my kids the right way to live and walk the right path in life so we can be a family of God? Thank you for reading this letter. I can't wait to hear from you. God bless you and thank you.

Antonie from Tampa, TX

Thank you so very much for all that you do. The studies that you send have truly helped me and I feel closer to the Lord than ever before. I can honestly say that even thought I am locked up in prison, I am free. Jesus has not only given me my freedom (forgiveness), but He has promised me a place in Heaven. He has changed my life, to when I am now walking in the light, and that light gets brighter with each passing day. Thank you Jesus!!! God bless you and your ministry.

William from Buster Cole State jail, Bonham, TX

Dear Naomi,

I'm writing this letter to thank the Ed Bousman Ministry for the Bible and the Bible Studies that y'all sent me when I was in jail. Well I'm no longer locked up and I'm very thankful that our heavenly Father has helped me through my struggles in life. I've learned to let go and let God have His way in my life. He is my light in life and I know that He will lead me on a good path so that I can do the things that pleases Him and no myself. God has given me so much understanding and now I see life in a whole new meaning. Please keep me and my family in your prayers and if there are any more studies please send me more. Thanks so much for the GIJAPA monthly newsletters and I wish that I could thank you personally. May God continue to bless your ministry always?

Anthony from State Prison in Elgin, TX

Dear Mrs. Bousman,

I'm writing because I have fours years left on my sentence but I am eligible for Judicial Release and I ask if your church could please pray for my family, my children and for me as well. Also could your church people or if you would even do this: write me a letter of recommendation saying that I've been doing your Bible Lessons so that I could put it with my Judicial Motion. Also I live in Peebles, OH, and once I'm released could I join your church by attending the services? I do thank you for these Bible Studies cause they've really gotten me closer to the Lord, and if you knew my past life you wold be amazed by how much I've changed. I thank you for your time, and hope to hear from you soon. God bless you and your family. Please pray for all of my three daughters ages 10, 12, and 15.

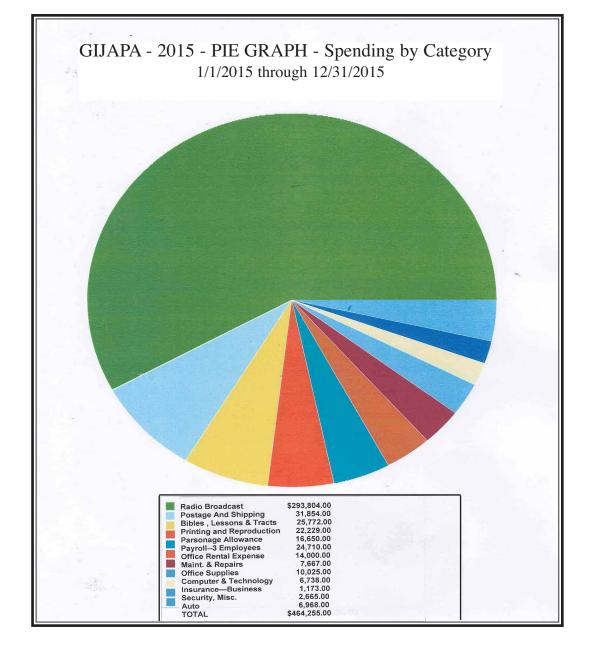
Sincerely, Jimmy from London Correctional Institution, London, OH. (I told Jimmy to put all of his lessons that have been graded and returned to him along with the certificates of completion with his Judicial Motion, that would more effective than a letter from someone that doesn't know him.)

ED BOUSMAN

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