

DEVOTION FOR THE SIXTH FRIDAY OF EASTER

PSALM 109:21-31

But you, O God my Lord, deal on my behalf for your name's sake; because your steadfast love is good, deliver me!

For I am poor and needy, and my heart is stricken within me.

I am gone like a shadow at evening; I am shaken off like a locust.

My knees are weak through fasting; my body has become gaunt with no fat.

I am an object of scorn to my accusers; when they see me they wag their heads.

Help me, O Lord my God! Save me according to your steadfast love!

Let them know that this is your hand; you, O Lord have done it!

Let them curse, but you will bless! They arise and are put to shame, but your servant will be glad!

May my accusers be clothed with dishonour; may they be wrapped in their own shame as in a cloak.

With my mouth I will give great thanks to the Lord; I will praise Him in the midst of the throng.

For He stands at the right hand of the needy, to save him from those who condemn his soul to death.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen*

Old Testament Reading: Numbers 11:1-30 *The Spirit appoints Elders for Moses*

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 8:1-13 *Jesus' covenant greater than Moses'*

“A NEW COVENANT”

Covenants were part of the legal code of peoples in the ancient near east. They were typically enacted with the ritual sacrifice of an animal. The blood sealed the covenant and obligated each party to fulfill their end of the deal. The animal was divided into two parts. This symbolized the penalty for violating the terms of the covenant. The parties making covenant passed between the two parts. This affirmed their agreement to the terms. In the case of a covenant between two unequal parties, only the weaker of the two would complete this ritual. By this act they would acknowledge the benevolence of the superior party and accept responsibility for the bad things that would happen, if they didn't keep their part of the deal. A concept that should be familiar to anyone who has taken out a big mortgage with a large lender.

God made covenant with Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai. That covenant included features common to covenants at the time. God promised His benefits. Israel accepted the terms in obedience to the moral and ceremonial laws. Israel acknowledged the punishments that would result from their violation of the covenant. However, unlike the covenants of the day, the Lord also provided the means of forgiveness, through the sacrificial service of the tabernacle and later the temple. The sins of the people would fall on the animals sacrificed in the temple

The author of Hebrews speaks of Jesus as the high priest of a better covenant than that which God made through Moses. It is a better covenant, because it was made with better promises of forgiveness and eternal life. There was forgiveness in the covenant God made through Moses. The animals sacrificed in the temple bore the guilt of the sin of the people. Yet their blood didn't actually appease God's anger at sin. Rather, these pointed towards the sacrifice Jesus would make, in giving Himself to take away the sin of the world. The sin of the world fell on Him. His sacrifice atoned for it all! The promises of forgiveness and life are better and more certain in the New Covenant, because they are signed in Jesus' blood and sealed by His resurrection.

“O SAVIOUR, PRECIOUS SAVIOUR” (Public Domain)

O Saviour, precious Saviour, whom yet unseen we love;

O Name of might and favour, all other names above.

We worship Thee, we bless Thee, to Thee, O Christ, we sing.

We praise thee and confess Thee, Our Holy God and King.

O bringer of salvation, who wondrously hast wrought,

Thyself the revelation of love beyond our thought.

We worship Thee, we bless Thee, to Thee, O Christ, we sing.

We praise Thee and confess Thee, our gracious Lord and King.

In Thee all fullness dwelleth, all grace and power divine;

Thy glory that excelleth, O Son of God is Thine.

We worship Thee, we bless Thee, to Thee, O Christ, we sing.

We praise Thee and confess Thee, our gracious Lord and King.

O grant the consummation of this our song above.

In endless adoration and everlasting love;

Then shall we praise and bless Thee, where perfect praises ring,

And evermore confess Thee, Our Saviour and our King.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you call us to yourself through the gospel saying, *“Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.”* You have completed the work of salvation through your sinless life and sacrificial death. We receive salvation as a gift by grace through faith. We rest in your peace. Bless us with your Spirit that we forever abide in your covenant and rest in your peace. May we rise in you to receive the fullness of the blessings and benefits of the New Covenant in eternal life in your Father’s house. In your Name. Amen

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven.

Hallowed be Thy name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,

Forever and ever. Amen

THE CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

BENEDICTION

Hebrews 8:12

“For I will be merciful towards their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”