

Take Away the Stone

Scripture Reading: John 11:1-37

Introduction

1. **Relate the story of sickness and death of Lazarus (1-37).
Read verses 38-44**
2. **At the grave Jesus said, “take away the stone.” (V.39)**
3. **When Lazarus arose, Jesus said, “Loose him, and let him go.” (V.44)**
 - A. **Why didn't Jesus remove the stone?**
 - 1) **He could have removed it by physical power or the power of His word.**
 - 2) **Could have raised Lazarus without moving the stone.**
 - B. **Why didn't Jesus loose him?**
 - 1) **He could have done it as easily as them.**
 - 2) **The power that raised him could have loosed him.**

God Never Does What Man Can Do for Himself

- 1. Salvation in the ark:**
 - A. Noah was required to “build.” (Gen 6)**

- 2. Deliverance of Israel:**
 - A. Chose Moses to “bring them out.” (Exod 3:7-10)**
 - B. Required Moses to “use the rod” at the sea (Exod 14:16)**
 - C. Required Moses to “stretch out his hand” to close the sea (Exod 14:26)**

- 3. Removing of the plaque of serpents:**
 - A. Required Moses to “make a fiery serpent.” (Num 21:8)**

- 4. Naaman required to “wash in Jordan 7 times.” (2 Kings 5:10)**

- 5. Blind man was required to “wash” in pool of Siloam. (John 9:7)**

- 6. All men are to “be baptized” for forgiveness of sins. (Acts 2:38)**
 - A. To “be baptized” to be saved. (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet 3:21)**

God Always Does What Man Cannot Do

1. **Note what God did in each of the previous examples**
 - A. **He provided the way of salvation **IF** man believed in Him and DID what He said.**
2. **The same is true in saving people today.**
 - A. **He furnished the sacrifice.**

Hebrews 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

Romans 5:6 For when we were still without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly.**

- B. **He gave the plan.**
Galatians 1:11-12

2 Timothy 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but **according to His own purpose and grace** which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

- C. **He gives the salvation.**
Ephesians 2:8-9

- D. **He enrolls our names in heaven.**

Revelation 3:5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Some Stones We must Roll Away

1. To The Alien Sinner:

A. The stone of unbelief.

John 8:24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

B. The stone of impenitence.

Acts 17:30-31 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.

C. The stone of Denial (Matthew 10:32-33).

D. The stone of disobedience.

Romans 6:17-18 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

- 1) **By obeying you will then DO His will and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins.**

2. **To the child of God:**

A. **The stone of indifference.**

Hebrews 6:12 that you **do not become sluggish**, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, **do it with your might**; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.

B. **The stone of ignorance. (2 Timothy 2:15)**

2 Peter 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.....

C. **The stone of love for the world.**

1 John 2:15-17

D. **The stone of carnality (living for the flesh).**

Romans 8:6-8 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, **those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

- 1) **We must strive to live faithful in order to pleasing to our heavenly Father each day of our life.**

Conclusion

1. **There are many other stones that we can roll away.**
2. **Some expect God to roll away the stones and do it all.**
3. **God has done his part and He fully expects us to do what we can do.**

A. God wants us to do His will and be saved.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but **is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**

4. Salvation is conditional - we must act for ourselves, doing His will.

Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:9

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, **that they may have the right to the tree of life,** and may enter through the gates into the city.

6. Could there be a stone between you and God this morning?

Invitation

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Richard Thetford, 1995 - Revised - 2009