THE CROSS — THE PRICE OF OUR INHERITANCE

A Communion Message

By Paul Zerubbabel

Approximately 15 minutes, including Scripture readings, prayers, and Communion.

Opening — The Greatest Gift

Good morning, everyone.

Today, as we come together to remember the sacrifice of our Lord and Saviour, Yeshua, I want us to consider something extraordinary.

We are heirs of the Kingdom of God.

Not because we deserved it.

Not because we earned it.

Not because we were righteous, holy, or worthy of such an inheritance.

But because God loved us.

And because of that love, He did something beyond anything we could ever have accomplished ourselves.

He gave His beloved Son.

The cross of Calvary was not simply the death of a good man. It was the greatest act of love and sacrifice in the history of creation.

It was the moment when the innocent took the place of the guilty.

When the righteous suffered for the unrighteous.

When the Son of God took upon Himself the sins of the world.

And through that sacrifice, something impossible for us became possible.

We became children of God and heirs of His eternal Kingdom.

1. We Could Never Earn Our Salvation

Let's begin with Ephesians 2:8–9.

> "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
>
> Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Think about those words.

Not of yourselves.

Not of works.

It is the gift of God.

We live in a world where almost everything has to be earned.

If you want a house, you work for it.

If you want a wage, you labour for it.

If you want a position of responsibility, you must prove yourself worthy of that responsibility.

And rightly so.

In the Kingdom of God, righteousness, faithfulness, responsibility, and good works have their proper place.

But our entrance into that Kingdom is something entirely different.

We could never work hard enough to purchase eternal life.

We could never perform enough good deeds to erase our sins.

We could never make ourselves righteous enough to stand before the holiness of God.

Romans 3:23 tells us:

> "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Every one of us.

The preacher, the congregation, the rich man, the poor man, the respectable citizen, and the sinner.

All have fallen short.

And yet God looked upon us with love.

He did not say, "Make yourselves perfect, and then I will accept you."

He provided the way Himself.

And that way was through His Son.

2. The Father Placed Our Sins Upon Yeshua

Now we come to the heart of the cross.

Isaiah 53:6 says:

> "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Notice those last words.

"The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Our sins were laid upon Yeshua.

Not because He had committed them.

Not because He deserved their consequences.

But because He willingly became our sacrifice.

And 2 Corinthians 5:21 tells us:

> "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

Consider the magnitude of that exchange.

He knew no sin.

We were sinners.

He was righteous.

We were unrighteous.

Yet He took our place.

The Father placed upon His innocent Son the burden of our sin, so that through Him we might receive the righteousness we could never produce for ourselves.

Think of the love required to do that.

Think of the obedience of Yeshua, knowing what lay ahead.

Think of the Father, who loved His Son, yet gave Him for our salvation.

This was not a small sacrifice.

This was not something God did casually.

This was the cost of bringing us home.

3. The Suffering of the Cross

Let us remember what Yeshua endured.

He was betrayed.

He was falsely accused.

He was mocked, beaten, scourged, and crowned with thorns.

He carried His cross toward Calvary.

His hands and feet were pierced.

His blood was shed.

And there He hung, suffering for the very people He had come to save.

Isaiah 53:5 says:

> "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

Our transgressions.

Our iniquities.

Our peace.

He bore the consequences so that we could receive the blessing.

And then came those terrible words from the cross.

Matthew 27:46:

> "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Here was the beloved Son, bearing the dreadful weight of sin.

The One who had lived in perfect fellowship with the Father was experiencing the terrible anguish of that hour.

And we must never forget whose sins He was bearing.

Ours.

My sins.

Your sins.

The sins of humanity.

Every act of selfishness, every lie, every betrayal, every injustice, every failure of love.

All the things we could never undo by our own strength.

The Father laid our iniquity upon His Son.

And Yeshua endured the cross.

Hebrews 12:2 tells us:

> "Looking unto Yeshua the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

What was that joy?

Consider what His sacrifice would accomplish.

A redeemed family.

Children of God.

Heirs of the Kingdom.

An eternal future of life, love, fellowship, and glory.

He saw beyond the suffering.

He saw what His sacrifice would achieve.

And we were worth that sacrifice to Him.

Not because we had earned such worthiness, but because He loved us.

4. From Sinners to Heirs of the Kingdom

Now here is something that fills me with wonder.

We were sinners, separated from God by our own unrighteousness.

And yet, through Yeshua, we are invited into the very family of God.

Romans 8:16–17 says:

> "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
>
> And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Joint-heirs with Christ!

Can we truly comprehend what that means?

We did not simply receive forgiveness and get sent on our way.

We were welcomed into the family.

We became children.

And because we became children, we became heirs.

An inheritance is not the same thing as a wage.

A wage is what you receive because you have worked.

An inheritance is what you receive because you belong to a family.

And that is the extraordinary beauty of salvation.

We did not purchase our place in the Kingdom.

Yeshua paid the price.

And the Father welcomed us as His children.

Now, that does not mean good works are unimportant.

Quite the opposite.

Ephesians 2:10 continues:

> "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Yeshua unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

We are not saved **by** good works.

We are saved **unto** good works.

Our obedience, our faithfulness, our service, and our love become the fruit of the new life God has given us.

We learn to live as members of His family.

We learn responsibility.

We learn righteousness.

We learn to love as Yeshua loved.

But none of those things can replace the cross.

The cross is the foundation of our inheritance.

5. Remembering the Price

And this brings us to the communion table.

Today we have before us two very simple things.

Bread.

And the cup.

Ordinary things.

Yet they remind us of the most extraordinary sacrifice ever made.

The bread represents the body of Yeshua, given for us.

The cup represents His blood, shed for the forgiveness of sins.

We do not come to this table boasting of our goodness.

We come in gratitude for His goodness.

We do not come claiming that we deserve eternal life.

We come remembering the One who gave His life so that we could receive it.

And we do not come merely to remember a death.

We remember a sacrifice that opened the door to an everlasting future.

Yeshua rose from the dead.

He lives today.

And because He lives, our inheritance is not an empty promise.

It is a living hope.

As 1 Peter 1:3–4 tells us, God has begotten us again unto a lively hope through the resurrection of Yeshua from the dead:

> "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,"

An inheritance that does not decay.

An inheritance that cannot be corrupted.

An inheritance that will never fade away.

That is what the cross has opened to us.

And now, as we take communion together, let us remember what it cost.

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6. Taking the Bread — His Body Given for Us

Pause. Invite the congregation to take the bread and hold it.

In 1 Corinthians 11:23–24, Paul writes:

> "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Yeshua the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:
>
> And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."

As we hold this bread, remember His body.

Remember the scourging.

Remember the crown of thorns.

Remember the nails.

Remember the suffering He willingly endured.

He gave His body for us.

And because of that sacrifice, we have been invited into His eternal family.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for Your beloved Son, Yeshua.

We thank You that He willingly gave His body for our salvation.

We acknowledge that we could never earn such a gift.

We thank You for Your mercy, Your forgiveness, and Your extraordinary love.

As we take this bread, we remember His suffering and the price He paid to bring us home.

In the precious name of Yeshua,

Amen.

Let us take the bread together.

Pause while the congregation eats.

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7. Taking the Cup — His Blood Shed for Us

Invite the congregation to take the cup.

Now we remember His blood.

The blood of the new covenant.

The blood shed for the remission of sins.

1 Corinthians 11:25 says:

> "After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

And Matthew 26:28 tells us:

> "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

His blood was not shed in vain.

It was shed for our redemption.

It was shed so that our sins could be forgiven.

It was shed so that we might stand before the Father, not clothed in our own righteousness, but in the righteousness given through His Son.

Think about that.

The price has been paid.

The door has been opened.

The inheritance has been promised.

And the One who died for us now lives forever.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the precious blood of Yeshua.

We thank You that our sins have been forgiven through His sacrifice.

We thank You for the new covenant, for the promise of eternal life, and for the inheritance You have prepared for Your children.

We remember the suffering of Your Son.

We remember His love.

And we rejoice that He is risen and lives forevermore.

May we never take this wonderful salvation for granted.

In Yeshua's precious name,

Amen.

Let us drink together.

Pause while the congregation drinks.

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8. Closing — It Was Worth It All

As we finish, I want to leave you with one thought.

When Yeshua endured the cross, He knew what He was doing.

He knew the suffering.

He knew the sacrifice.

And He knew the joy that lay beyond it.

He saw a redeemed people.

He saw sons and daughters of God.

He saw an eternal family.

And He gave Himself for us.

One day, when we stand in His presence, when mortality has passed away and we enter the fullness of His Kingdom, we will understand more clearly what His sacrifice accomplished.

And I believe we will look upon our beloved Yeshua with a gratitude beyond anything we can express today.

Because He loved us when we were sinners.

He died for us when we could not save ourselves.

And He made us heirs of a Kingdom we could never have earned.

The cross was the price.

Salvation was the gift.

And eternity with Yeshua is our inheritance.

Let us never forget Him.

Let us never forget His sacrifice.

And let us never forget His love.

Amen.