

Reflection: *Lamb of Salvation*

A.K. Sutherland Good Friday, April 6, 2007

Could there be no other way?

When Moses drafted the books of the law, could he have understood the power of what he was proclaiming: "A pure unblemished Lamb, as a sacrifice. This shall be a sacrifice for sin."

That was the establishment in Israel, and so long as the people had a temple it was to there that they would go to make sacrifices before the One and Only God, Yah-Weh; El-SH-haddai; God of Abraham, Lord of Ages.

From a dove for purification to sheep and cows for sins of malice and murder, to theft and infidelity; it was easy to judge the state of the people at any given time because it could be shown in the flow of blood from the alter of sacrifice.

It was in the flowing of blood that purification and forgiveness was manifested. It was in giving to God what could have gone to the individual that God grace was to be elicited.

But as the nation prospered, sacrifices became a quick-fix mechanism. They would sin and then run to the temple through a couple of turtle doves at the alter, run back out and make themselves unclean again. They'd offer the rite, the practice, the routine of forgiveness, but the meaning of forgiveness would be well out of their mind as they began to contemplate the next sin as they left the temple gate.

Do you understand what you do when you sin? Sin means that a payment for sin is necessary. It means that a price must be paid. With every impure thought, with every maliced action, with every thrust of ignorance and pride, with every sin you make the sacrifice necessary.

Paul wrote to the people in the churches throughout the Mediterranean, Asia and Europe, to tell them about Christ and to spread the understanding of the necessity of Christ for them; that he was not just sent to redeem the lost sheep of Israel but through them the whole of the world by the grace of Christ.

The world needed and still need the chance to be forgiven. Sin strips away at the human spirit, it is burdensome. It is the oldest destroy, the heart of all corruption and well planted weed in our faith and lives. People may not admit to their actions, or thoughts, or beliefs as being sinful, but if they are sinful before God those sins, those misunderstandings and selfish interpretations, will ruin and destroy.

And the world needed and still needs to be forgiven. Your sins will wear you down until - in desolation - they consume all of who God made you to be.

The sins that were placed upon Jesus are our sins. We are guilty of sedition; of troublemaking and agitating. The ability to stir up trouble is a form of worldly power, because it is often so that its not the one who can keep things stable, but the person who subverts authority and stirs up the mob who has all of the power. Our greatest act of sedition is that we say what we believe to be true to be more true than what God offers us.