

He Made Him

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3/3/2011



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“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21¹).

He who knew no sin was made sin for us; conversely, we who were not righteous were made righteous “in Him.”

What an amazing exchange we find. The one without any sin was made sin for us and we who were without righteousness He made righteous. The Just in place of the unjust should make us tremble and heavy with sorrow. Jesus died because of me. “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit” (1 Pet. 3:18).

Again, the amazing exchange is seen in He who was rich became poor that we who are poor might become rich in God’s favor and heavenly blessings.

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9).

Yet again, we find the amazing exchange in life for death. “The Life” (Jn. 14:6) who manifested (1 Jn. 1:2) and has “eternal life” (Jn. 10:28) and owns the “words of life” (Jn. 6:68) and is in fact “eternal life” (1 Jn. 5:20) died, so that we who are dead might live.

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone” (Heb. 2:9).

“Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it” (Acts 2:23, 24).

I love the contrast brought out in scripture of what man does versus what God does. Man exchanges what is lawful to work what is unlawful. He exchanges the truth of God for a lie. He murder and put to shame Innocent one. Yet God raises up what is cast down! God works in truth and extends life to the dying and freedom to the slave. Amazing still that that He who had eternal life was put to death by mortals while we who have the “sentence of death” are given “eternal life” through His grave! What an amazing plan! For it is impossible that death should hold Him and yet in dying , He accomplished two things. He fulfilled the righteous requirement of the law in bearing our sins. He also built

the hope of eternal life into us by His own act of surviving the grave.

The Lion of the tribe of Judah came and laid down His life as a lamb. The Rich One from heaven took on our filthy rags and washed them in His own blood. The Creator of all things became subject to the creation; the Judge of all men was Himself judged by man; and the Light of Life willfully subjected Himself to the full complete arsenal of darkness that worked within man. Seven such evils worked upon Him around Golgotha, and by His submission and resurrection He defeated them all.

32 Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him:

33 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be ¹betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and ²they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the ³Gentiles;

34 "and ⁴they will mock Him, and ⁵scourge Him, and ⁶spit on Him, and ⁷kill Him. And the third day He will rise again" (Mk. 10:32-34).

To the very people He came to save, He was subjected to false companionship (betrayal by Judas), false justice (condemned by chief priests/scribes when He did nothing wrong) and vicious violence (delivered and killed by the Gentiles). His resurrection condemned the unjust condemnation of those who pierced Him, verified His claims and provided justification to all who would fellowship His death in baptism (Rom. 5:9, 10; 6:3, 4). It is an amazing work.

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed” (Is. 53:5).

Our healing came through His affliction. How He is worthy of our daily praise because “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us.” How sweet redemption is to the poor, but how easily forgotten and dismissed by those who are shortsighted (2 Pet. 1:9).

ⁱ All Scriptures are from the New King James Version