

AMANA TRUST BIBLE STUDIES

Lessons from the Gospel of John (21):

Life Processed for Multiplication —The Life-releasing Death of Christ

Bible reading

You may find it helpful to also read the entire case found in John 18:1—19:42.

John 19:31-34

31 Then the Jews, since it was the day of preparation and so that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath day was a great Sabbath), requested of Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away.

32 The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man and of the other man who had been crucified with Him.

33 But coming to Jesus, when they saw that He had already died, they did not break His legs;

34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water.

Introduction

The record of the death of Christ in the Gospel of John focuses on the process for the divine life to be released and imparted into His believers. As a grain of wheat (John 12:24), the Lord Jesus died in order to produce many grains, that is, to multiply Himself. His death, therefore, was not primarily to redeem fallen, sinful man but even more so to fulfil God's eternal purpose to impart Himself as life into His believers and to produce the church.

Bible study reading

Please prayerfully read through the following portions of ministry related to this lesson.

From eternity past to eternity future, God's intention is to impart Himself into us as life. During the process of time, we became fallen and committed sin. The fall brought about a gap in God's eternal purpose. God bridged this gap and filled it in with redemption. By this we see that redemption is supplementary to the main aspect of the Lord's death. Thus, the main point regarding the Lord's death in John's record is that it released life and imparted it into us. (*Life-study of John*, msg. 43, section 3)

The thought of the Holy Spirit in John 18 and 19 is not mainly that of the Redeemer bearing our sins, dying for our sins on the cross, and redeeming us from the curse of our sins. The thought of the Redeemer and His redemption is seen mainly in the first three Gospels. The thought in the Gospel of John, especially in chapters eighteen and nineteen, is mainly that of the Lord as the seed of life going into death and releasing Himself through death and resurrection. In this way, the one grain has been released to produce the many grains. Life originally was restricted to the one grain, but now, by death and resurrection, Christ's very life has been released, has brought forth

many grains, and is now in the many grains. This is the thought concerning the Lord's death in the Gospel of John.

John 19:34 says, "But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water." Two substances came out of the Lord's pierced side: blood and water. Blood is for redemption, dealing with sins (John 1:29; Heb. 9:22) for the purchase of the church (Acts 20:28), and water is for imparting life, dealing with death (John 12:24; 3:14-15) for the producing of the church (Eph. 5:29-31). On the negative side, the Lord's death takes away our sins; on the positive side, it imparts life into us. Hence, it has two aspects: the redemptive aspect and the life-imparting aspect. The redemptive aspect is for the life-imparting aspect. The record of the three other Gospels is only for the redemptive aspect of the Lord's death, but John's record is not only for the redemptive aspect but also for the life-imparting aspect. In Matthew 27:45, 51; Mark 15:33; and Luke 23:44-45, "darkness," as a symbol of sin, appeared, and "the veil of the temple," which separated man from God, "was rent." Those were signs related to the Lord's redemptive death. Furthermore, the words spoken by the Lord on the cross in Luke 23:34, "Father, forgive them," and in Matthew 27:46, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (because He bore our sin at that time), also depict the Lord's redemptive death. But the flowing water and the unbroken bone mentioned by John in verses 34 and 36 are signs of the Lord's life-imparting death. This life-imparting death releases the Lord's divine life from within Him for producing the church, composed of all His believers into whom His divine life has been imparted. This life-imparting death of the Lord was typified by Adam's sleep that produced Eve (Gen. 2:21-23), and is signified by the death of the one grain of wheat falling into the ground for the bringing forth of many grains (John 12:24) for the making of the loaf—the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 10:17). Hence, it is also the life-propagating, life-multiplying, regenerating, and reproducing death. (*Life-study of John*, msg. 43, section 1)

Going deeper

Please read or listen to these materials for an in-depth study of this lesson.

Further reading:

[*Life-study of John, msg. 43*](#)

Radio broadcast link:

Broadcast 46, [*Life Processed for Multiplication \(2\)*](#)

Footnotes from Recovery Version of the New Testament:

John 19:34, footnote 1

John 19:36, footnote 2

Questions for personal or corporate study:

References in brackets indicate readings or broadcasts that may be helpful in answering the questions.

- How does John's record of the death of Christ differ from the record presented in the other three Gospels?
- What is the significance of the blood and water that came out of the pierced side of Christ on the cross?
- What is the significance of Christ's bones not being broken? (Broadcast 46)

Next week

Life in Resurrection (1)—Coming as the Spirit to Be Breathed into the Believers

God's eternal purpose is to impart Himself as life into man to gain an expression of Himself. Christ's death on the cross not only solved the problem of sin negatively but also imparted the divine life into His believers positively, thereby producing the church. Next week we will see how Christ came to His disciples on the day of resurrection to breathe Himself as the Spirit of life into them in order to fulfil everything He had promised in John chapters 14—16.

Works Cited

Lee, Witness. *Life-study of John*. Anaheim: Living Stream Ministry, 1985. www.ministrybooks.org

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