

Exodus 30:11–16
What Can a Man Give in Return for His Soul?
January 29, 2011
Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction

A. The Hope & the Need

Exodus 19:5–6a

⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be **my treasured possession** among all peoples, for *all the earth is mine*; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. ...

B. How Can we Possibly Pay God Back?

Mark 8:36–37

³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? ³⁷ For *what can a man give in return for his soul?*

Key Idea

We have stolen our lives from God. How can we ever make restitution so that we can become one of God's treasured possessions!

II. What is the Significance of this Census?

A. The historical Significance of a Census

Exodus 30:12

“When you take the **census** of the people of Israel...

¹⁴ Everyone who is *numbered in the census*, from *twenty years old and upward*...”

2 Samuel 24:2, 12–13

² So the king said to Joab, the commander of the army, who was with him, “Go through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and **number the people**, that I may know the number of the people.”...

¹² “Go and say to David, ‘Thus says the Lord, Three things I offer you. Choose one of them, that I may do it to you.’” ¹³ So Gad came to David and told him,

and said to him, “Shall three years of famine come to you in your land? Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days’ pestilence in your land? ...”

B. Ransomed & Redeemed

Exodus 30:12

...then each shall give a **ransom** for his life to the LORD when you number them, *that there be no plague among them when you number them.* ...

Exodus 21:30

³⁰ If a **ransom** is imposed on him, then he shall give for the redemption of his life whatever is imposed on him.

Exodus 13:13

¹³ Every firstborn of a donkey you shall **redeem** with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.

Exodus 30:16

¹⁶ You shall take the atonement money from the people of Israel and shall give it for the *service of the tent of meeting*, that it may bring the people of Israel to remembrance before the LORD, so as to make atonement for your lives.

- C. What is the Significance of this Census?
1. Everyone owes God the same debt
 2. God graciously required an affordable payment
 3. The army that was mustered belonged to the Lord

III. God’s Treasured Possession

- A. All of Us Owe God the Same Debt (Life)

Psalm 49:5–10

⁵ Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of those who cheat me surrounds me, ⁶ those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches? ⁷ Truly no man can **ransom** another, or give to God *the price of his life*, ⁸ for the *ransom of their life is costly* and can never suffice, ⁹ that he should live on forever and never see the pit. ¹⁰ For he sees that even the wise die; the fool and the stupid alike must perish and leave their wealth to others.

B. God has made the New Covenant Even
More Affordable!

Psalm 49:15

¹⁵ But God will **ransom** my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me.

Isaiah 55:1–3

¹ “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk **without money** and **without price**. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, *that your soul may live*; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

1 Timothy 2:5–6a

⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man **Christ Jesus**, ⁶ *who gave himself as a ransom for all...*

C. We are God’s Treasured Possession!

1. This is Our Most Treasured Possession

Matthew 13:44

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Isaiah 35:10 (51:11)

¹⁰ And the **ransomed** of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with *singing*; *everlasting joy* shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain *gladness* and *joy*, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

2. Belonging to God Frees Us from Sin

Titus 2:11–14

¹¹ For **the grace of God has appeared**, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ *who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness* and to purify for himself a people for **his own possession** who are *zealous for good works*.

Matthew 16:18

¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the *gates of hell* shall not prevail against it.

(2 Corinthians 4:7–18)

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though *our outer self is wasting away*, *our inner self is being renewed* day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as *we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen*. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.