

Series: John
Title: He Keepeth his Bones
Text: Jn 19: 31-37
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John 19: 31: The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away. 32: Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. 33: But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: 34: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. 35: And he that saw *it* bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. 36: For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. 37: And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

John had taken Mary to his house but returned. He is an eyewitness testifying of what he saw that we might believe. When the soldiers drew near to break His legs; He was already dead, so they did not break a bone. But one soldier pierced his side and out flowed blood and water. This was to fulfill scripture, "*And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.*"

Proposition: We will focus mainly on the fact that not a bone was broken--Christ Jesus is the Passover Lamb who saves his people from our sins.

THE PASSOVER LAMB

By our Savior's bones not being broken we behold Christ is our Passover. Concerning the passover lamb which God provided to die as the substitute for the firstborn children in the houses of Israel the Lord said,

Exodus 12: 46: In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof.

Numbers 9:12: They shall leave none of it unto the morning, nor break any bone of it: according to all the ordinances of the passover they shall keep it.

The Pharisees did not want to leave Christ on the cross until the morning because the next day was the Sabbath day. They did not wanted to observe a day. That is the only thing they meant. But it was the fulfilment of this scripture. He was not left on the cross until the morning the same as the passover lamb was not left until morning. Not a bone of his was broken the same as no bone of the passover lamb was broken. He brings his people to look on him whom we have pierced and mourn in repentance and faith.

Christ Jesus is the Passover sacrificed in the place of his people for our sins. Christ is God providing himself a Lamb. The same as God provided a passover lamb for the firstborn in the houses of Israel, so God our Father provided is own Son who was sacrificed in place of his people. He satisfied the law for his people. Christ justified us from our sins. All the firstborn in Egypt died that night, even in the houses of the children of Israel, except the passover lamb died in their place. So it is of his people. Christ died in our place.

None of our Lord's bones were broken: his life was not taken away by men, but he laid it down freely by himself. Christ's strength was not broken: not by the weight of sin, the curse of the law, the wrath of God, or his conflict with Satan. Nothing broke his strength. By his strength he obtained eternal redemption for his people.

It was the head of the house that applied the blood of the passover lamb to the doorpost of the house. So Christ is head of his spiritual house (Heb 3: 5-6). He sends the Spirit and applies his precious blood, giving us faith to believe on Christ. God said, "When I see the blood, I will passover you."

Believe on the Lord Jesus now. He promises, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mr 16: 16). For us who believe, he teaches us to persevere in faith unto the end. Stay in the house under the blood of our Redeemer. God promises, "When I see the blood, I will passover you" (Ex 12: 13).

BONE OF HIS BONES

Psalm 34: 17: *The righteous* cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. 18: The LORD *is nigh* unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. 19: Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all. 20: He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken. 21: Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate. 22: The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

The Lord's people are one with him. We are his bones. In Psalm 34, it first speaks of Christ and how the Father delivered him so that not one bone was broken. *"He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken."*

"The righteous" is Jesus Christ our Righteousness. He suffered afflictions like no other, even unto the death of the cross. The Lord Jesus cried unto the Lord, and God the Father heard him and delivered him out of them all. God our Father kept all his bones so not a bone of our Savior was broken. And each of God's elect are one with him. We are the righteous because our Lord Jesus made his people the righteousness of God in him by his obedience.

We saw how they pierced our Lord's side and out flowed blood and water. Adam was put into a deep sleep and Eve was created out of Adam's wounded side. Christ is the last Adam. Our Lord had already died when they came to him. Death is called in scripture, sleep. When they pierced our Lord's side out came blood and water from his wounded side. His church, each member in particular, is created in Christ's righteousness (blood) and Christ's holiness (water). As Adam said of Eve, so Christ says of those he redeemed, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh." (Gen 2:23).

Ephesians 5: 30: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.... 32: This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

When we are born-again and given faith, Christ makes us look upon him whom we have pierced and mourn for him. He teaches us we are one with him. We are his bones by divine election--"of God are ye in Christ Jesus". We are his bones by his blood redeeming us. We are his bones by the water of the word and washing of regeneration we are inseparably one with Christ.

Brethren, we are his bones. We are inseparably united to Christ. The same as not one of our Savior's physical bones was broken, not one of his spiritual bones shall be broken, desolate, separated from him. *"He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken....The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate."*

God our Father gave His Son to be complete redemption and in him his saints are complete. Christ purchased us with his own blood. His church, his body, is the fulness of him. Not one of his bones shall be broken, desolate, separated from him.

THE REPENTANT THIEF'S BONES WERE BROKEN

Remember, one of the thieves on the cross was made to know he was one with our Savior. Yet, he was still alive when they came to him so his bones were broken. It is not that we will not have trouble in this world. Our Lord does not put us in the way blindfolded. He taught us to expect trouble.

John 16: 33: These things I have spoken unto you, [that you should not be offended] that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Our physical bones may be broken. If you are believer who broke a bone, do not despair that you are not Christ's and made righteous by him, we shall suffer. But we shall never be broken away from Christ.

We would rather not have trouble and sufferings. But the Lord's thoughts are not our thoughts. The Lord said we shall "glorify Him in the fires" (Is 24: 15). He hath chosen his people "in the furnace of affliction" (Is 48: 10). But he promises "when they pass through the waters He will be with them, and through the rivers they shall not overflow them" (Is 43: 2). He promises to "bring the third part through the fire" (Zach 13: 9).

There are many that would break our bones.

Satan's desire is to break our Lord's bones, to separate us from Christ our Lord. Sometimes the devil attempts to draw us away from Christ our righteousness and sanctification to set up some righteousness or holiness of our own. Sometimes he attempts to make us believe that since we are the elect of God, sin won't harm us. But with either of the two, then he turns around and calls us hypocrites, "you can't possibly be God's child, curse God and die."

The cares of this world take our affection off Christ. Our own sin nature is covetous. It "wars against our soul" and would break the bones. God's saints cannot boast like the Arminian that we have kept our bones from being broken. We cannot sacrifice to own net nor burn incense to our own drag (Hab 1: 15-16). We know that were it not for the Lord's everlasting arms under us, we would not stand.

Satan, sin, the world. They make us as "sheep counted for the slaughter." "Many are the afflictions of the righteous." But remember what follows that word, *"but the LORD delivereth him out of them all. He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken."* Spurgeon said, "God's people shall suffer. But we shall suffer no real, lasting, vital injury. You may have flesh wounds, but as to the bones of your spirit, "not one of them is broken."

Indeed, our faithful Father does break our bones, as in breaking our hearts to make us abhor our sin and see our need of Christ and keep us crying out for Christ to save us.

Psalm 34: 17: *The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.* 18: *The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.*

David experienced it.

Psalm 51: 8: Make me to hear joy and gladness; *that* the bones *which* thou hast broken may rejoice....17: The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

But the Spirit of God will make our broken heart rejoice. He will do it by making us look to no other deliverer but Christ. Calvin said, "By this means his power shines forth more clearly, when he raises us up again from the grave. Moreover, it is meet that the faithful should be thus utterly cast down and afflicted, that they may breathe again in God alone."

Through suffering he teaches us our weakness to show us he is full of power to keep us, "*he keepeth all of his bones and not one of them is broken*" We love that ending on the word "keepeth". "Eth" means ongoing. We are "kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Pet 1: 5).

It is through faith, that he keeps us believing on Christ, finding all in him alone. God has appointed Salvation for walls and bulwarks to protect his people. [That should be a capital S--"Salvation"] (Is 26:1). Christ himself is "a wall of fire" to surround us.

Brethren, the very fact Christ is called a fortress for his people shows we have need to be kept by him. But Salvation, Christ himself, is the wall and bulwark, the fortress, the Refuge. God's teaches his child to persevere believing on Christ himself by showing him continually being faithful to us. We do not learn this doctrine all at once, our Lord teaches us this good news throughout our pilgrimage through the wilderness.

They used to say milk makes you have strong bones. The first five years of my life I lived on a dairy farm in Hope, Arkansas. In the milking house, I could see the milk coming from the cow through the clear tubes into the vat. Mom would send me with a plastic picture. I would bring it back full of fresh milk. Drinking that fresh milk early in life may be why I have not had many broken bones. But I know this is certain, the gospel milk is Christ himself. Christ is the Strength of his bones. When all our strength is gone, the Lord strengthen us in the inner man through faith making us behold him, that he is our Salvation. This is how he keeps his bones from being broken.

Christ is the blessing. He is blessing us even when we suffer because we learn more of him. Joseph was blessed of the Lord when he was sold by his brethren and taken to Egypt. When Potiphar's wife lied on him and he was thrown in prison, God was blessing him. After he interpreted the dreams and was left in prison for 2 more years, the Lord was blessing him. In the end, he said, "God meant it unto good" (Gen 50: 20). Everything the Lord did was for Joseph's spiritual good and the good of his house. So it is of us.

Our crying and groaning is as necessary as our rejoicing. Usually, it is after we have wept bitterly that he brings us to rejoice most. Christ declares we shall say:

Psalm 35: 10 All my bones shall say, LORD, who is like unto thee, which deliverest the poor from him that is too strong for him, yea, the poor and the needy from him that spoileth him?

Brethren, we are the poor and needy. He is our riches and our one need. Whether spiritual or temporal: "Bread shall be given thee, and thy water shall be sure" (Is 33: 16). Do you want for clothes? He that clothes the lilies, will he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? (Mt 6: 28-30). Is it some other temporal need. "Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of these things" (Mt 6:32). He is teaching us that this world nor anything in it is salvation. Christ is Salvation!

1 Peter 5: 10: But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*. 11: To him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

On the cross, Christ had already died when the soldiers came. His people already died and are risen in him. So seeing not one of his bones was broken, know, not one member of his body shall be broken. He keepeth all his bones, from the weakest to the strongest, not one is broken.

Romans 35: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36: As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37: Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38: For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39: Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen!