



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – April 9, 2022

The Lord be with you.

What does the cross, the cross of Jesus mean for you? That's something I wanna think about. As we're coming up to Holy Week to Good Friday and Easter, what is the meaning of Jesus cross for you and me? As I asked this, I'm reminded of a couple who called themselves CEO's, that is... They were Christmas, Easter only church goers.

Well, when Easter morning, those two CEO's are walking into church with their little daughter, now she's about four or five years of age, and the little girl sees a cross up at the front of the sanctuary, and the little girl was overheard to say excitedly, look Mommy look at the big plus sign. I like that, out of the mouths of babes. Look at the big plus sign, because the cross is God's big plus sign for you and for me and for the world. That's why the apostle Paul won for its Corinthians Chapter 2-2 says, I decided to know nothing except Christ and Christ crucified. Paul is saying I wanna keep it plain and simple, that it's all about the cross of Jesus. And every pastor I know is going to be burning the midnight oil these next several nights working hard to communicate clearly what the cross means. What Good Friday means for the world. I wrestle with it, how to make clear the meaning of Jesus cross. Because you see the cross is crux. The cross is the crux of the message, because the Latin word for cross is crux. The cross is the crux of the good news.

You see when we're in conversation and we say that a point we're making that it's the crux of the argument. We are saying that as central as key, as important as the cross is to the world, so is the point that we're making in our argument, it's the crux. The cross is crux. The cross is central. It is key to everything that you and I believe as followers of Jesus.

What is it then that Jesus accomplished for us on the cross? What is it that Jesus did on that Good Friday, that turns the world upside down. Someone helps me to better understand the wonder, the glory of what Jesus did for us on this cross is William Tyndale, a man who lived 500 years ago in England. We remember William Tyndale as the father of the English Bible. He is the person most responsible for that Bible that you have in your hand. As William Tyndale was the first person to translate the Hebrew Old testament and the Greek New Testament into English, and he was just the man for the job. As William Tyndale was a genius in language, fluent in seven languages. Scholars tell us that the English language that you and I speak that well, it really comes from Shakespeare, the King James translation, and Tyndale's Bible.

Tyndale was fired by the passion to translate God's words so that everyone could read it and understand. He said that he wanted an English plow boy to be able to read God's word and



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understand it. Tragically for the crime of translating God's word into a language that people could read and understand, Tyndale was tied to a stake, strangled death and his body burned. The elite of Tyndale's day while they regarded English as to barbaric language to have God's word translated into English. But Tyndale wanted make crystal clear what the cross means, what it is that Jesus accomplished for us through the agony and shame of his cross. But Tyndale could not find the right word in Middle English to correctly, clearly translate what the cross means. And so what Tyndale did as he invented... He coined an Anglo-Saxon word. He called what Jesus did on the cross for you and me. He called it at-one-mont, well, you and I call it atonement, but what Jesus did for you on that Good Friday, well, it brings you into at-one-mont with God, full acceptance, union, harmony with him. Now, in addition to translating the Bible Tyndale wrote a book titled, A Pathway into the Holy Scriptures, in which Tyndale speaks of sinners to the cross of Jesus Christ as being quote loosed, justified, restored to life and saved, but to Liberty and reconciled into the favor of God, and set at one with him again.

The meaning of the cross for you, for me, is that Jesus brings us sinners into at-one-ment with God. It is what 1 John Chapter 2, Verse 2 is saying, Christ is the atoning. The atoning sacrifice for our sins and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. That little girl was right, when seeing the cross in the church that day, said, Look at the big plus sign. Because the cross of Jesus Christ is God's big plus sign. The cross is God's atoning sacrifice for you and me. It's what the Apostle Paul is saying in 2 Corinthians Chapter 5:19, that in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them. Through the cross, God has made you, God has made me at one with him. Now, that's something to think about. And that's something to celebrate, and that's something to tell the world.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.