

Colors Of The Cross

Part 2: Black and White

Today we want to celebrate the symbolic colors of the cross!

Isaiah 63.1 \ Who is this who comes ...with garments of glowing colors ...majestic in His apparel...in the greatness of His strength? "It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."

In this verse Isiah asked a question about the One he saw coming in garments of glowing colors.

The colors of the cross tell a story about who Jesus is.

Last week we looked at the color purple.

A symbol of royalty and it pointed to Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

This color purple should remind us that Jesus was not just a man.

He was our royal God come in the flesh to be near us, provide healing for us, to show us the nature of God.

But there came a moment where He took off his royal robes and put on something far different than royalty.

Mark 15:22-37 \ 22 They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). 23 Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. 24 And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

25 It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. 26 The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the Jews.

27 They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. ... 29 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ...31 In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves...32 Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

33 At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 34 And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"...37 and with a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

In this moment, we find Jesus making the ultimate sacrifice for us.

In that moment, Jesus truly exchanged the purple robes of royalty for the black heavy garnet of sin in its fullness.

2 Corinthians 5:21 \ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

In that moment, when the skies turned dark and Jesus breathed His last natural breath, he became sin for us.

He didn't just take sin upon himself, He became our sin!

Isiah 53:5-6 \ 5 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. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Every vile thing we've ever done and every shameful act we've employed was placed upon Him.

He became sin for us!

Not only sin but the blackness of sickness and disease was conveyed upon Him as well.

1 John 2:2 \ And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

When he exchanged his royal robes for filthy rags, he became the vilest of the vile.

And his torment didn't end of the cross.

Ephesians 4:10 \ he descended to the lower, earthly regions within the depths of the earth?

For once Jesus gave up the ghost, his spirit descended into the lower parts of hell to pay the ultimate sacrifice for us.

He suffered for three days so we don't have to.

So as we look to the cross and see the sash of black it should remind us of the ultimate price that Jesus paid for us.

Jesus and Paul both enjoined us to never forget the blackness of that moment.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 \ 23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

This morning we come to the communion table in heartfelt gratitude for that moment he chose to be robed in black.

We recognize his innocent blood was poured out as he took in the blackness of our sin.

We recognize his body broken on our behalf for our sickness.

The Easter story does not end with Jesus robed in black.

Revelation 1:12-17 \ I saw in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters. And when I saw Him, I

fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen.

Jesus rose in glistening robes of pure holiness as the one that was dead and that lives forevermore.

John 13:34 \ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

We see the perfection of the love he came to show us.

Luke 23:34 \ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do

Let's be able to look past the offenses of others and love!

As we celebrate His resurrection this morning, let's allow His love to be resurrected in our hearts.