

The Blood of Jesus Speaks for Me; Hebrews 12:22-24

- I. Better
 - A. The entire book of Hebrews is written to show that the fulfilled promise of Jesus is so much better than the Law of Moses, the old covenant
 - B. The writer continues that idea in 12:24 saying that Jesus' blood speaks better than Abel's
 - C. The Greek codex does not have 'word' in verse 24
 1. The Lexham English Bible, the NASB95, and the RSV leave it out as well and it translates much better
 2. LEB, "that speaks better than Abel's does"
 3. NASB95, "which speaks better than the blood of Abel
 4. RSV, "that speaks more graciously than the blood of Abel
 - D. The blood of Jesus speaks better than anything, so it speaks for me
- II. Forsaken
 - A. Jesus' blood brings us back to the cross
 - B. My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34)
 1. The Israelites at the Cross should have been taken back to Psalm 22
 2. Psalm 22:1 (ESV) ¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
 3. Many images in this psalm mirror that of the cross
 4. Psalm 22:7-8 (ESV) ⁷ All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; ⁸ "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"
 5. Psalm 22:14-18 (ESV) ¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; ¹⁵ my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. ¹⁶ For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet— ¹⁷ I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me; ¹⁸ they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.
 - C. We should have died on that cross!
 1. But Jesus Died in our stead... He became a curse so that we could have life
 2. Isaiah 53:4-5 (ESV) ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.
 3. Galatians 3:13 (ESV) ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—
 4. He became sin, so that we could overcome sin
 5. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV) ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
 6. Can you imagine, going from King to Curse, from Deity to Sin Bearer
 7. I'm sure this is the cause of Jesus' anguish and suffering on the cross

- D. The blood of Jesus cleanses my sin, so the blood of Jesus speaks for me
- III. Behold Your Son
 - A. Woman, behold your son!... Behold your mother! (John 19:26-27)
 - B. As Jesus' blood is dripping down his head, back, hands, and feet, He secures a home and an adopted son
 - 1. This has implications far beyond a home for His mother
 - 2. By His death, He has secured a home for us and adoption as sons
 - 3. Galatians 4:4-7 (ESV) ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.
 - 4. By His death, He has secured for us, a home in Heaven
 - 5. John 14:1-3 (ESV) ¹ "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.
 - 6. 1 Corinthians 15:50-57 (ESV) ⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 7. So just as Jesus ensure His mother had a family and a home, He has ensured we have a family and a home
 - C. The blood of Jesus gives me an eternal home and a Father, so the blood of Jesus speaks for me
- IV. I Thirst
 - A. I thirst (John 19:28)
 - 1. I could only imagine the depth of thirst Jesus had now
 - 2. After being beaten numerous times, scourged within an inch of His life, forced to travel to various courts, then hung on the cross out in the elements, you KNOW He was thirsty
 - 3. But I think this goes deeper than just thirst for drink
 - B. Jesus desires that we thirst for Him, for righteousness
 - 1. Matthew 5:6 (ESV) ⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

2. John 4:13–15 (ESV) ¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” ¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”
 3. We should thirst for Jesus with the same fervor that He thirsted while He bled on the Cross
- C. The blood of Jesus makes me righteous, holy, and sanctified, so the blood of Jesus speaks for me
- V. I Commit
- A. Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit (Luke 23:46)
1. A complete and total trust in His Father
 2. A trust that started in the beginning, when God created the world, when God created man and woman knowing they would sin
 3. A trust in the promise given to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3
 4. Hebrews 6:13-20
- B. This promise is for us!
1. Acts 2:39–41 (ESV) ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.
 2. If we would just commit our spirit to the blood of Jesus
- C. The blood of Jesus is better, so the blood of Jesus speaks for me
- VI. It Is finished (John 19:30)
- A. Some would say that Jesus is referring to His ministry, His time here on this earth.
1. The long road from Galilee to the Cross is over
 2. But I think it goes deeper than that
 3. Sin separated man from God
 - a. When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, God separated himself from mankind and removed them from the Garden
 - b. Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death”
 - c. But God planned a plan and worked that plan (through the sacrifice of His Son)
 - d. Jesus knew what He had to do and worked every detail so that he would end up on the cross
 - e. An acceptable sacrifice that satisfies God’s wrath
 - f. Everything written by the law and the prophets was fulfilled in Christ
 - g. Luke 24:44 (ESV) ⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”
- B. It is finished... the plan that was set into motion before the foundations of the world is complete!
1. Ephesians 1:4 (ESV) ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

- 2. The separation that occurred in the Garden is over
 - C. The blood of Jesus finished the plan, so the blood of Jesus speaks for me
- VII. The blood of Jesus speaks
- A. The blood of Jesus cleanses me of my sin
 - B. The blood of Jesus gives me a home and a Father
 - C. The blood of Jesus makes me righteous, holy, and sanctified
 - D. Does the blood of Jesus speak for you?