



Ox - The True Servant

Key idea:

Jesus, the Ox, is the True servant of God, suffering and dying that we might have life.

Key text:

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Philippians 2:5–8

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!

Revelation 5:5–7

Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” ⁶ Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

Key points:

1. The Ox was a symbol of both power and submission, strength and servanthood.
2. Oxen were among the most valuable animal offerings that could be given to the Lord.
3. Jesus became the Servant by taking our human nature, obeying the Father, and dying for our sins.

4. Jesus had to be a fully human and totally righteous Servant so that His sacrifice in our place would be acceptable to God.
5. The great paradox is that the Lion is also the Ox and Lamb! The King has come to serve and save!

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Jesus is likened to both an ox and a lamb. In what ways are these symbols similar? In what ways are they different? Why might the symbol in Ezekiel and John's vision be an Ox rather than a Lamb?
3. What role did oxen and lambs play within the worship of Israel? What requirements did an ox have to meet to be used as a sacrifice?
4. Why is it necessary for Jesus to come as a Servant and not just a conquering King?
5. Is Jesus giving His life as a ransom a necessary part of His Servanthood? Can you think of biblical texts other than Mark 10:45 that link Jesus coming as a Servant with His sacrificial death in our place?
6. In what ways is the symbol of an ox (and what it represents) similar to the symbol of the man and the lion (and what they represent)? In what ways is it different?
7. In Revelation 5:5-7, John is told that the Lion of the Tribe of Judah will take the scroll and open it, but when he turns he sees a Lamb. Is this surprising? What important insight into Jesus do we gain from this?
8. How can the symbol of the Ox help me to learn to trust Jesus' care and concern for me? What does it teach me about the lengths to which Jesus will go to restore our relationship with Him?
9. Can you think of someone with whom you can share what you have learned this week? Pray for them and ask God to open a door for you to share His Word.

Our Advent Series: Images of Christ

Preview of next week: Eagle - The True God (John 1:1-5, 14)