

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

## I. Intro - Paradox of the Ox

- A. The ox/bull/buffalo - strong animal!
- B. Picture of buffalo flipping the lion
- C. But these animals have been domesticated
- D. They were also used for sacrifice
- E. What does the symbol of the ox represent?
- F. What does it teach us about Jesus?

## II. Ox - The True Servant

### A. Jesus came to be a Servant

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.  
Mark 10:45

- 1. Jesus came not to be served but to serve
- 2. This servanthood centers on dying to pay for our sin
- 3. It is impossible to understand Jesus' position as Servant apart from His redemptive work in dying to pay for our sin.

### B. The Ox is a symbol of the Servant

- 1. There are other symbols as well - Lamb is most common
- 2. The ox may be used here as the greatest of domestic animals - so strong, useful, valuable

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.” Ex 20:17

- a. Ox is listed as greatest domestic animal
  - b. It was the most valuable servant animal so it might be coveted
3. The ox was one of the most valuable offerings that could be given to the Lord
- They brought as their gifts before the Lord six covered carts and twelve oxen — an ox from each leader and a cart from every two. These they presented before the tabernacle. Numbers 7:3
- a. Israel is presenting gifts to the LORD - and each tribe gives an ox
  - b. Oxen were not nearly as numerous as Lambs and were thus worth far more
  - c. Oxen were the strongest animal and thus the best servant animal
  - d. This made them the most valuable sacrifice
4. Ox and sheep were both used as sacrificial offerings
- Do not sacrifice to the Lord your God an ox or a sheep that has any defect or flaw in it, for that would be detestable to him. Deuteronomy 17:1
- a. Both ox and sheep could be used as a sacrifice
  - b. Both ox and sheep must be flawless to be offered in payment for sin
  - c. Lamb’s were much more prevalent and became the normal animal used in sacrifice, but both ox and lamb were sacrificial animals

### III. Why Jesus Must Be the Servant

#### A. Catechism Q22 - Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

The Redeemer must be truly human so that He might fulfill humanity's obligations to God by completely obeying God's Law and suffering and dying for human disobedience.

1. The Redeemer had to be human
  - a. To fulfill humanity's obligations to obey God
  - b. Man was to be the servant of Yahweh, but in the fall we rejected this role and tried to become our own masters
  - c. Thus, One had to come to be a true Servant, fulfilling our call to obey God
2. The Redeemer had to be the Suffering Servant to pay for our sin
  - a. Because we had failed, the Servant had to pay for our sin
  - b. Thus, the Servant had to be the Suffering Servant, bearing the penalty for our sin
3. This is why the True Man also has to be the True Ox - the Suffering Servant

#### B. Catechism Q23 - Why must the Redeemer be perfectly righteous?

The Redeemer must be perfectly righteous so that His obedience and sacrifice in our place will be acceptable to God.

1. This is why in the Law the ox or lamb had to be without blemish or flaw
2. Jesus had to be the perfect, flawless Servant to offer Himself as a sacrifice for our sin.

#### C. The King becomes a Servant Who dies to pay for sin

##### 1. Jesus took the nature of a Servant

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, **being in very nature God**, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but **made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness**.  
Philippians 2:5–7

- a. Jesus was in very nature God - the King!
  - b. Jesus took the nature of a Servant by becoming human - the True Man
  - c. In the Incarnation, the King becomes the Servant.
- ##### 2. Jesus became a Servant to die to pay for our sins
- And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! Philippians 2:8
- a. As a Servant-Human, Jesus humbled Himself and obeyed
  - b. Jesus' obedience included dying on the Cross
  - c. In the Incarnation, the King becomes the Servant to die on the Cross to pay for our sin/
- ##### 3. The Lion became a sacrificial Lamb
- 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." <sup>6</sup> **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.... <sup>7</sup> **He came and took the scroll** from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. Rev 5:5–7
- a. The Lion is the Root of David - the True Man

- b. The Lion is the Lamb Who was slain
- c. The Lion is on the Throne - He is God (Eagle)
- d. This Man/Lion/Lamb/Eagle opens the scroll!

#### IV. Applying the Word

##### A. Do I see why Jesus must be the Servant?

- 1. Humans owed God perfect obedience
- 2. As the True Man and the True Ox Jesus fulfilled this call in our place
- 3. He is the True Servant that I have never been!
- 4. This has fulfilled my obligations to God!

##### B. Do I see why Jesus must be the Suffering Servant?

- 1. Many love the idea of Jesus as Servant
- 2. They are fine with Him being a teacher and example
- 3. But the idea that Jesus had to suffer death to pay for our sin is offensive to many
- 4. But this is the heart of Jesus' Servanthood and the Gospel - by Jesus' own words! (Mark 10:45)
- 5. Do I see that I must obey God perfectly - and have failed?

a. We owe perfect obedience to God - not our best effort

b. We all fail at this miserably - every single day

##### 6. Do I see that my sin is worthy of judgment?

a. Sin is not simply overlooked - it must be judged

b. My sin must be paid for - by myself or by another!

7. Thanks be to God - Jesus is the True Servant of God, suffering and dying that we might have life!

8. Turn to Him today and find life!

##### C. Do I see that Jesus has suffered in my place?

- 1. Jesus the Servant suffered that I might not
- 2. Jesus the Servant was forsaken so that I would never be forsaken
- 3. He sees and knows your trouble; He has tasted it, and He will be with you through any valley

##### D. The Table of Suffering and Life

- 1. This is the Table of Suffering, for in His Body Jesus served, suffered, was broken and died to pay for our sins
- 2. This is the Table of life, for through the sacrificial blood of Jesus' death we are given life
- 3. This is the Table where we receive reassurance that He will never leave or forsake us!
- 4. Come to receive the life offered through the Suffering Servant of God!

#### Ox - The True Servant

Mark 10:45

December 16, 2018

Communion

Revelation 5:9-13 paraphrase

Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas, Jesus; Christology; salvation and deliverance

May the Lamb Who was slain to purchase people for God from every tribe, and language, and people, and nation receive power, and wealth, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory and power, and may His Presence and blessing fill your lives with every good thing! (Based on Revelation 5:9-13)

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. Mark 10:45