

Text: Hebrews 7:26-28 Good Friday April 18, 2014.

It is finished! Once and for all! For you! Amen.

Gutzon Borglum is the man who sculpted Mt. Rushmore. He initially had the vision to blast the full bodies of four presidents out of the bedrock. But shortly after finishing the faces, he died. His son was asked to carry on the work. He refused. He said something like, "This was my father's work. His work is finished. I can't add to the work that he did. In fact, trying to add to his work would take away from it. You can't add to this work of art. You will only detract from it." So Mt. Rushmore was declared finished. Now Jesus, he finished, completely, his Father's work. Jesus' vision was to die on a cross and take away your sins. That's it. Jesus had no other vision. Jesus finished his work. He died on a cross. He took away all your sins. His work is finished. His sacrifice is complete. Jesus is a holy sacrifice, once and for all.

Do you see how trying to add to Jesus' sacrifice is like trying to add to Mt. Rushmore? Who would dare to take a chisel up the mountain and start carving Jefferson's hands? Who would dare to say, "Gutzon's work wasn't good enough! I can do better! My addition will make this work complete!" Yet how easily we say that with Jesus' work. But Jesus, I pray to you every day. Doesn't that add a little something? But Jesus, don't you know that your Word is oppressive to women? I'm just helping you out by changing a few parts. But Jesus, a bloody guy on a couple boards used as torture doesn't seem like a loving God, can't we just talk about love and harmony and peace and not so much about sin and hell and damnation? Look at that cross. It preaches sin. Look at that cross. It preaches the high price for sin: death. Look at that cross. It preaches hell.

But only one person had to suffer hell: Jesus. One person did suffer hell, in your place: Jesus. Jesus met your greatest need. He was holy for you. Holy in every way you can look at it. Holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners. Like looking at a diamond from many angles and seeing it sparkle differently in each ray of light, so Jesus was holy from every angle, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners. Here's the amazing thing, the one whose holiness set him apart from sinners, came to earth and associated with sinners, came to earth to pay the price for sinners, came to earth to offer himself up for sinners.

Jesus was holy. There's nothing you can add to holiness. But why was Jesus holy? Why did he have to be holy? To meet our greatest need. Without holiness no one will see the Lord. I don't have holiness because of my good life and neither do you. So Jesus was holy to give us holiness. Jesus was holy to transfer his holiness to your account. Jesus doesn't need to sacrifice for his own sins. Jesus already sacrificed for your sins. I realize if you take inventory of your life, you might list many wants, even call some of them needs. I need to get an A on my next test. I need a new car. I need money to pay the mortgage. But Jesus says, "Wait. Stop. Think." You have a greater need: holiness. You have a more desperate need: forgiveness. Let me meet those greatest needs. Look at the cross. My sacrifice was holy. I met your need. My sacrifice was perfect. I have forgiven you. I took care of your greatest needs. Let me worry about all the rest.

Yeah, let Jesus worry about all the rest. Jesus meets our need. He is holy. He doesn't need to sacrifice for his own sins, so he can and did sacrifice for your sins. And he sacrificed once for all. Just repeat those words. Once. For all. When the money seems short, just say, "Once. For all." Jesus met my greatest need. Once. For all. Jesus took care of my biggest problem, sin. Once. For all. The question came up to me, "For all what?" For all time? For all people? For all sins? For all something? For all what? For all all. For all of all of the above. God doesn't have to say for all what. It's just for all, for all all. Once for all

time. Once for all people. Once for all sin. Once. For all. You can't add to it. Once for all. You can't improve it. Once for all. In fact, trying to add to this sacrifice says to God, "Your work wasn't good enough. Let me help. Your work isn't finished until I do something." Why would you say that to God? Why would you try to add to this perfect, holy, work of art that is your forgiveness, once for all. Once. For all. For all time. For all people. For all sin. Once. For all.

It is finished. It is really finished. Jesus' sacrifice is done and complete once and for all. Look at how superior Jesus is to any other human high priest. Human high priests have their own sins. Jesus did not. Human high priests have to offer sacrifices for their own sins. Jesus did not. There were many human high priest. There is only one Jesus. Human high priests have to offer sacrifices day after day after day, like milking cows. Jesus offered one sacrifice. For all. Human high priests have weakness. Jesus does not. Human high priests were appointed for a temporary time by a law. Jesus was appointed for all time, by an oath, by a solemn oath of God himself. The oath appointing Jesus came later, so this oath supersedes any law that went before it. This oath trumps the law. This oath declares Jesus as the one and only perfect high priest forever. He is perfect forever. He has been made perfect forever. It is finished. It is really finished. Look at that cross. It meets your need: holiness, once and for all. For all time. For all people. For all sin. Treasure that cross. It meets your need: forgiveness, once and for all and forever. Amen.