

Text: Matthew 27:24-25. Midweek Lent. **March 12, 2015.**

The blood of Jesus purifies us from every sin. Amen.

**When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!”** <sup>25</sup> **All the people answered, “Let his blood be on us and on our children!”**

Let his blood be on us and on our children. Wow! Let his blood be on us and on our children. Do you realize what those people were saying? They were calling down God’s curse on themselves. Let his blood be on us and on our children. They were asking to be held responsible, guilty, for the death of God’s own Son, Jesus Christ! It hurts to say that. It hurt more to really think about it. Just do that. Stop and think about these words, “Let his blood be on us and on our children.” That makes the chest heavy and the heart sink.

The more I studied it, the more it hurt. All the people answered. Every one. They were united and unanimous. All the people. People is not the same word as crowd, an unnamed mob. These are the people, the special and chosen people of God. These are the people the angels sang about at Jesus’ birth. Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people, people, on whom God’s favor rests. The people wanted Jesus’ blood to be on them instead of God’s favor! When John the Baptist was born, his father Zechariah sang, “Praise be to the God of Israel, who has come and has redeemed his people.” These special, chosen people called down God’s curse, the blood of Jesus, on themselves.

And they didn’t stop with themselves. They called down this curse also on their children. The thought is horrible. Call down the guilt of God, the blood of Jesus, the responsibility for his death on your children? Then to look deeper and realize this is the precious word for tender affection parents show to their children, the word for those who are dearly loved by their parents. Kids, we love you so much, we want God’s curse to come on you and we want you and your children to be responsible for killing Jesus. Talk about a shot to the heart. Let his blood be on us and on our children. Who would say this?

I have said this. I nailed Jesus to the cross. I flung the whip with my sins. I have used hammer and nails and thorns and scourge to make him bleed. I did this! So did you! I asked for God’s curse. I bear his blood on my hands. And I have passed this curse to my children. Yes, my original sin was the first present I gave them when they were conceived. But every time I sin, every time you sin, especially in their presence, we pass down our curse to our dearly beloved children. Would my children always say, “Yep. My daddy, that’s what Jesus is like”? When I lose my temper at the unloaded dishwasher? When I’m in too much of a rush to eat supper to talk about God’s Word with them? When I make them come to church and go to school to hear God’s Word, but then at home I’m just watching TV and playing games. Have you also at times led your children away from Jesus? His blood is on me. His blood is on our children.

How can we get rid of that blood? What can we do with the guilt? Pilate tried everything. He questioned Jesus privately. He offered up a worse prisoner and let him go free. He passed Jesus off to Herod. He had Jesus whipped to within an inch of life. Finally, his last act of desperation. He washed his hands right in front of the crowd. As though water could wash this blood of Jesus off his hands. As though our good works could wash the blood of Jesus off our hands. But Jesus, I came here on Thursday night. My second

time this week. But Jesus, my children are all straight A students. I don't know what pastor was talking about before. I'm a good example. Do you really think your good works can wash the blood of Jesus off your hands? If we stuck our hands in the ocean, our hands would not get clean. The entire ocean would turn red, with blood, the blood of Jesus we have on our hands. We can't get rid of this blood, this blood of sin, this blood of guilt.

But, the blood of Jesus, God's Son, purifies us from every sin. O, sweet music to the soul. The blood of Jesus, God's Son, purifies us from every sin. O, sweet irony. His blood is on us and on our children. The blood came that out of Jesus' back when he was whipped, he shed for you, to purify you from every sin. The blood that trickled past Jesus' temple from the crown of thorns, that blood purifies you from every sin. The blood that shot out of Jesus' hands as they were nailed, that blood shot right to your heart and washed your heart clean. His blood is on you. Jesus puts his blood right on your lips so you can taste it, right on your tongue so you can savor it, right to your heart so you can feel it. I am clean. I am cleansed. I am pure. I am holy. His blood is on me and his blood cleanses me from every sin.

His blood is on me and his blood is on my children. What all the water in the all the oceans could never do, God did with a few drops of water and these wonderful words, "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Your baptized children are really washed. They really are innocent of this man's blood. Jesus has put his blood on your children in baptism so they are pure and holy and innocent of every sin in God's eyes. God sees only the blood of cleansing on your children, not the blood of guilt. God's blood is on us and on our children. O blessed day! His blood is on us and on our children. O happy day! His blood is on us and on our children!

Here's the irony. Their curse, "Let his blood be on us and on our children," is our prayer. Let his blood be on us and on our children. Thank God his blood is on us and on our children. Praise God that his blood is on us and on our children. Pray to God, "Let his blood be on us and on our children." Amen.