

Matt.28:20 4th Wed. in Lent @ Immanuel, Mercedes March 11, 2026
Jesus' Personal Passion Prophecies Teach Redemption

28) The Son of Man did not come to **be** served, but **to serve** and to give
His life a ransom for many.

INTRO: IMO, the world consists of two types of people, givers, and
takers. Text is prompted by envy by others WRT Mrs. Zebedee's
request for her two sons to sit with Jesus in His kingdom. OTOH, many
other women (Luke 8) served Jesus of their means. Mary and Martha
hosted Jesus on at least several occasions. Even Jesus' last supper was
arranged by two disciples and an agreeable host. But here Jesus says He
came to **serve**, to give, not to receive. We have heard very detailed
prophecies of His passion; and now here we find the **why**. He says that
He will give His life as a ransom. (for kidnapped victims)

I. THE NEED FOR RANSOM/REDEMPTION (synonyms?)

A. God declared that all sinners must be punished, to die

1. long ago: Eden; ...thou shalt surely die
2. Jesus to Nicodemus (previous Wednesday) 'born again' 'of flesh'
3. also Paul: The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)
4. all die, ergo all are sinners; all need ransoming, redemption

B. **All** have sinned, and that means you and me

1. pride hasn't changed since Adam, Mrs. Zebedee
2. can't see pride in myself, because I'm superior
3. O Lord, it's hard (**impossible**) to be humble

C. No one can ransom himself, let alone atone for another's sin

1. Eph.2:1 ...who were dead in trespasses and sin
2. and never certain of adequacy of **our** ransoming, even when we try
3. I can pay for your parking ticket, but not your sin before God

II. THE NATURE OF JESUS' RANSOM

A. Background and meaning of the word

1. originally, price paid for prisoner of war
2. also used for redeeming slaves, buying their freedom
3. root is **LUO**, loose, untie, set free

B. The price Jesus paid for ransoming

1. His life; all between 'came' and 'gave His life' (continued)

2. a period underreported and often overlooked
3. His 'giving' was totally voluntary
4. no mention from whom ransomed; to whom paid
 - a. God required punishment; He owns us all
 - b. Jesus and we owe the devil nothing; so not paid to him
 - c. Eph.5:2 ...hath given Himself for us an offering and sacrifice to God...

C. The number of POW's released

1. 'for many'; understatement! Synecdoche: "All hands on deck" *MICE WHEELS*
2. John 3:16 For God so loved **the world**...
3. 1 John 2:2 "He is the propitiation for our sins, and not only for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world"
4. I'd say that 'whole world' is really, really many

III. THE RESULT OF THIS RANSOMING

A. A feeling of well being for those ransomed

1. confident of our redemption because of the magnitude of the price paid
2. confident of God's favor, as His redeemed, adopted child
3. display a cross as symbol of payment in full; like a receipt

B. "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us and hath given Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God." (Eph.5:2)

1. Here is **our** reason and motivation for living, loving
2. walk = entire life; way of life
3. standard is 'as Christ also hath loved us and **gave**...'
4. and when we fail, repent and recall our ransom/redemption

C. "For all which it is my duty...**serve** and obey **Him**"

1. contrast this with the attitude of Mrs. Zebedee
2. exemplified by Jesus in foot-washing; life and suffering
3. as also brave Nicodemus and Joseph of Aramathea
4. empowered by love that first loved us

CONCLUSION: You are precious to God. The price paid for you was the life of the obedient Son of God. You are bought with a price; therefore glorify the Lord with your body, which is Christ's. Amen.