

**JOHN SERIES #14:  
The Self-Rising Bread Of Life  
Jn. 10:17-18  
Grace Community Church  
Kingston, Tennessee  
Sunday, March 1, 2020**

**1. TEXT: Jn. 10:17-18, (17) "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. (18) "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."**

**2. INTRODUCITON:**

- a. Some people feel that when Jesus was arrested and crucified, He was a victim of circumstances Who was caught up in something that was out of control. But Christ was the director of all that was going on around Him.**
- b. The plan of salvation that was formulated in Eternity past was being enacted in time and space.**
  - i. Ephesians 1:4, "just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love...."**
  - ii. Revelation 13:8, "All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."**
- c. Everything that occurred in Christ's passion was orchestrated by and directed by Him in order to fulfill the eternal plan of salvation drawn up among the Trinity in Eternity Past.**

**I. "I LAY DOWN MY LIFE" (Jn. 10:17)--Christ Was Not Powerless In The Hands Of His Enemies**

**A. MANIFESTATION OF PROOFS**

**1. #1 PROOF CHRIST WAS NOT POWERLESS IN THE HANDS OF HIS ENEMIES AT HIS ARREST: *Previous Instances Of The Same Thing***

- a. Jn. 18:2-6, (2) And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. (3) Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. (4) Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?" (5) They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who**

betrayed Him, also stood with them. (6) Now when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground.

b. Jesus could have delivered Himself had He so desired

1) Lk. 4:28-30, (28) So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, (29) and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. (30) Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.

2) John 10:39, "Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand."

3) John 7:30, "Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come."

c. Jesus let's Pilate know who was the true Sovereign: John 19:10-11, "Then Pilate said to Him, 'Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?' Jesus answered, 'You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.'"

## 2. #2 PROOF CHRIST WAS NOT POWERLESS IN THE HANDS OF HIS ENEMIES AT HIS ARREST: *His Cry From The Cross*

a. Mt 27:46, "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out WITH A LOUD VOICE, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?'"

b. Mt. 27:50, " And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit."

## 3. #3 PROOF CHRIST WAS NOT POWERLESS IN THE HANDS OF HIS ENEMIES AT HIS ARREST: *His Fulfilling Prophecy*

a. John 19:28, "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, 'I thirst!'"

b. WAS A FULFILLMENT OF Ps. 69:21, "They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."

## 4. #4 PROOF CHRIST WAS NOT POWERLESS IN THE HANDS OF HIS ENEMIES AT HIS ARREST: *Bowing His Head*

a. John 19:30, "So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And BOWING His head, He gave up His spirit."

b. As the Centurion looked on this scene he exclaimed, "Truly this was the Son of God." (Mt. 27:54)

**5. #5 PROOF CHRIST WAS NOT POWERLESS IN THE HANDS OF HIS ENEMIES AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST: *Giving Up The Spirit***

a. Lu 23:46, "And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, 'Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.' Having said this, He breathed His last."

b. Compare Christ's words with those of Stephen as he was dying: Acts 7:59, "And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on [God] and saying, 'Lord Jesus, RECEIVE my spirit.'"

**6. #6 PROOF CHRIST WAS NOT POWERLESS IN THE HANDS OF HIS ENEMIES AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST: *Christ's Legs Were Not Broken***

a. Jn. 19:31-33, (31) Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. (32) Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. (33) But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

b. Luke 23:32, "There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death."

c. Crucifixion was a death by asphyxiation.

d. PILATE MARVELED THAT JESUS WAS DEAD: Mk. 15:44-45, (44) Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. (45) So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

**B. MANKIND WAS POWERLESS**

1. Jn. 10:18, "NO ONE TAKES IT FROM ME, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

2. Numerous people were guilty of conspiracy to murder Jesus, but they were merely actors in the play Christ was directing.

3. Acts 2:22-24, (22) "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— (23) "Him, being

delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; (24) "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

### **C. MOTIVATION FOR HIS PASSIVITY**

1. John 10:15, "... and I lay down My life for the sheep."
2. Sheep must have someone take care of them. That could be done by hiring someone to do it.
  - a. Jn. 10:12-13, (12) "But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. (13) "The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.
3. Only the shepherd who owns the sheep would care enough for his flock's wellbeing to place himself in harms way for the sheep
  - a. Jn. 10:11, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."
4. 1 Pt. 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

## **II. JN. 10:17, THAT I MIGHT TAKE IT AGAIN**

**A. Not only did Christ rise from the dead, but He raised Himself from the dead— "THAT I MIGHT TAKE IT [MY LIFE] IT AGAIN." He is the SELF-RISING BREAD OF LIFE.**

1. Only God can give life: Acts 2:24, "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death ...."

### **B. Why did Christ rise from the dead?**

#### **1. TO SHOW US WHO HE WAS**

a. Mt. 12:38-41, (38) Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." (39) But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. (40) "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (41) "The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they

repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.

## **2. TO SHOW WHAT HE DID**

a. Rm. 4:25, "He was delivered FOR our offenses and was raised FOR our justification."

## **3. TO SHOW THE RESULT OF WHAT HE DID**

a. Heb. 2:14, "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil ...."

b. Rev. 1:18, "I [am] He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."

**C. Not even death itself could hold Christ against His will: Acts 2:24, "Whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should beheld by it."**

## **III. CONCLUSION:**

**A. Since Christ laid down His life for us, should we not lay down our lives for Him?**

**1. NOT just profess to do so, like Peter: John 13:37, "Peter said to Him, 'Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake.'"**