

## Outline

## “A Soldier’s Story”

March 25, 2007

*“And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!” Mark 15:39*

Introduction: The Backbone of the Roman Military Force in Jesus’ day

Centurions: Officers in the Roman army, in command of one hundred soldiers.

- In Matthew 8:5, a centurion who lived at Capernaum approached Jesus on behalf of his ailing servant.
- In Mark 15:39, a centurion who witnessed the crucifixion identified Jesus as the Son of God.
- In Acts 10, the conversion of the centurion Cornelius marked the beginning of the church’s outreach to the Gentile world.
- In Acts 27:3, the centurion Julius treated the apostle Paul with courtesy.

I. Basic Military Structure of command today

- Army
- Navy
- Marines
- Air Force
- Coast Guard

II. The Bible’s value of every member of those in the military

A. King David’s law for Israel

- *“...as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike.” (1 Sam 30:21-24)*

B. Similarities between David’s statute and our service as Christians today...

- We too are engaged in a battle
- Though our battle is a spiritual one - 1 Ti 6:12; Ep 6:12-13; 2 Co 10:3-6

III. The Church, like a military unit, requires two forms of service

A. There are those on the “frontline”, and the “Supply Line”

- *“These women helped support them out of their own means” Lk 8:1-3*

B. Both types of service are equally important

- *so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” Romans 12:3-8*

C. Both types of service demand the same goal, sacrifice, and zeal

- *“that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ” 1 Peter 4:11*

D. Both Services receive the same reward

- *“...they shall share alike” - 1 Sam 30:24-25*

Conclusion: Jesus knows who you are ... Do you know who he is?

- *“Surely this man was the Son of God!” Mark 15:39*

## Study Guide

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We continue our study of sacrifice and atonement. If you are following your Lenten Sacrificial calendar, you should be ready to make a sacrificial gift of at least \$250 to the Veterans Memorial Plaza. Thank you!

**Monday** -- Though atonement is focused in the cross, the New Testament makes clear that Christ’s death is the climax of His perfect obedience. He “became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:8). (Heb. 5:8). Romans 5:12-19 contrasts Christ’s obedience with Adam’s disobedience. His sinless obedience qualified Him to be the perfect Sacrifice for sin (Heb. 6:8-10).

**Tuesday** -- The necessity for Christ’s atoning work is occasioned by the breach in the relationship between the Creator and the creature. This breach is the result of humanity’s sinful rebellion. “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear” (Isa. 59:2). Thus, in their unreconciled state people are God’s “enemies” (Rom. 5:10), have “enmity against God” (Rom. 8:7), and have “no hope” (Eph. 2:12). ... “for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

**Wednesday** -- The atonement for sin provided by Christ’s death had its origin in divine love. No other reason can explain why “God reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ” (2 Cor. 5:18). The anthem that continuously peals from the Bible is that “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son” (John 3:16; see 1 John 4:9-10). This does not mean that God loves us because Christ died for us. Rather, Christ died for us because God loves us. Thus, “while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). Because atonement comes from love, it is always seen as a divine gift, never as human achievement.

**Thursday** -- In His atoning work Christ is both representative and substitute. As representative, Christ acted on behalf of His race. An example of representation is Paul’s contrast between Adam and Christ (Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:45-49). Adam and Christ represent two heads of two races of people. Adam is the head of the race of fallen persons. Sin and death came into the world through him. Because of our fallenness, all people belong to Adam’s race, the old humanity. Christ, the last Adam, represents a new race of people. These are the people who have been saved from sin. As substitute, Christ acted *in our place*. Whereas representation emphasizes Christ’s relation to the race, substitution stresses His relation to the individual. He experienced as substitute the suffering and death each person deserved. Substitution is implied in such references as 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13; 1 Peter 2:24.

**Friday** -- Throughout Lent we’ve been looking at how the New Testament uses military terms, concepts and culture to explain the message of Jesus; 2 Timothy 2, 3 Philippians 2:25, Philemon 1:2, Acts 10:7. There is just one week left in Lent...Are you ready to give a sacrificial offering to thank those in our military and to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice? Be sure to give sacrificially and generously to the Easter Victory Offering for the Veterans Memorial Plaza.