

Bethel

Prayer Meeting Addresses

Number 12 The Voice of the Blood

Reading: Hebrews 12. 18-29

18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,

19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:

20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:

21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new

covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

29 For our God is a consuming fire.

Address

We meet together once more this evening for prayer and as we venture to the mercyseat, to the throne of grace, may we view one thing. There is just one point I wish to make to you this evening in these verses: coming to Jesus and His precious blood. It is this: “the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.” Now the reference is to that terrible first murder when Cain slew his brother Abel and when God said, “The voice of thy brother’s blood

crieth unto Me from the ground.” O what a cry that was! Really it was a cry for vengeance, righteous vengeance. It was a cry which reached heaven. It was a cry which entered the ears of God. It was a cry which brought answers in the solemn case of Cain. Now the apostle speaks of this. The point is that the blood of Abel, the first human blood that was ever shed, spoke and it spoke loud. The point is that if the blood of Abel speaks, doesn’t the blood of Jesus speak? And if the blood of Abel speaks loud, doesn’t the blood of Jesus speak loud? And if the blood of Abel cries out, doesn’t the blood of Jesus cry out?

Now it is this. We venture in prayer and we pray to the most high God. That is your voice, that is my voice. But if we pray aright, there is another voice, a better voice, a more glorious voice. It is the voice of blood. It is the voice of the blood of Jesus. It is a louder voice than our voice. It is a more prevailing voice than our voice, and it cries aloud on our behalf. That is my only one point this evening, but it is a very blessed, sacred point. May you lay hold of it this evening in your prayers – public prayers, secret prayers at home, praying for mercy, praying for forgiveness, praying for cleansing. Your voice ascends to heaven, but there is another voice already there. It is the blood of Jesus, and that voice is already speaking, and it is a more prevailing voice than yours, and it is speaking loud on your behalf. May you view it in your prayers.

“What voice is that which speaks for me
In heaven’s high court for good,
And from the curse has set me free?
’Tis Jesus’ precious blood.”

That voice which speaks in heaven.

And our various burdens and trials and worries and concerns – there are many of them at present, aren’t there? We pray the Lord will appear to help us, to deliver us, to make our mountains a way, to bring us out of our troubles, to help us along, to bring us through. Sometimes it is urgent, and we cry aloud. “He will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry.” We cry aloud, but there is a voice in heaven that cries louder than our cries, and that is the blood of Jesus, not just crying aloud for the sinner’s pardon, but crying aloud for his acceptance and crying aloud for the acceptance of his prayers and crying aloud that some of those poor prayers might prevail in heaven. It is a wonderful truth. Is it Dr. Watts says, “Blood has a voice to pierce the skies”? Well, it has.

Of course, really this brings in the whole of the all-prevailing intercession

of the Lord Jesus. He died; He rose again; He ascended into heaven; there He ever lives; there He ever intercedes. He appears in heaven's high court, "a Lamb as it had been slain," and as He intercedes, as He pleads on behalf of sinners, it is His own sacrifice that He pleads. He pleads His relationship to His Father. Surely the Father must accept and hear and answer His dear Son! But He also pleads what He has done for sinners. He pleads His own sacrifice. He pleads His own precious blood. "If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." O to view that all-prevailing advocacy, that all-prevailing intercession of our great and glorious High Priest!

But then it is you and me as we venture and we pray for ourselves and for those we love, and we pray concerning the troubles we are in as well as our sins and our salvation. But why should our prayers be answered? Why should we be received? It is to plead the blood, plead the blood of Jesus. And as you by faith are enabled to plead, you will find that that blood cries out in heaven on your behalf. Now this is the ground on which sinners are accepted. This is the ground on which prayer is heard and answered, the blood of Jesus. It speaks "better things than that of Abel."

This address was given at Bethel Chapel, Luton, by Mr. B. A. Ramsbottom, on Monday, 1st March, 2004

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Blood has a voice to pierce the skies:
"Revenge!" the blood of Abel cries;
But the dear stream, when Christ was slain,
Speaks peace as loud from every vein:

Pardon and peace from God on high;
Behold, He lays His vengeance by;
And rebels that deserve His sword,
Become the favourites of the Lord.

To Jesus let our praises rise,
Who gave His life a sacrifice;
Now He appears before our God,
And for our pardon pleads His blood.

I. Watts

