

Calvary Sermon Notes August 14, 2011

Sermon: "A City of Refuge"

Today's Text: Joshua 20, Numbers 35, Deuteronomy 19

Hebrews 6:18 (KJV)

¹⁸That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, **who have fled for refuge** to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

Joshua 20 (KJV)

¹The LORD also spake unto Joshua, saying,

²Speak to the children of Israel, saying, Appoint out for you **cities of refuge**, whereof I spake unto you by the hand of Moses:

Exodus 21:13 (KJV)

¹³And if a man lie not in wait, but God deliver him into his hand; then I will appoint thee a place whither he shall flee.

³That the slayer that killeth any person unawares and unwittingly may flee thither: and they shall be your refuge from the **avenger of blood**.

- Those who committed a non-**premeditated** killing could flee to a city of refuge.

⁴And when he that doth **flee** unto one of those cities shall stand at the entering of the gate of the city, and shall declare his cause

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in the ears of the elders of that city, they shall take him into the city unto them, and give him a place, that he may dwell among them.

Deuteronomy 19:1-13 (KJV)

Numbers 35 (KJV)

- The gates of the city were never **locked**.

⁵And if the avenger of blood pursue after him, then they shall not deliver **the slayer** up into his hand; because he smote his neighbour unwittingly, and hated him not beforetime.

⁶And he shall dwell in that city, until he stand before the congregation for judgment, and **until the death of the high priest** that shall be in those days: then shall the slayer return, and come unto his own city, and unto his own house, unto the city from whence he fled.

- The purpose of the cities of refuge was to prevent **injustice**, especially in the cases of revenge.
- These six cities of refuge show God's design to protect the **innocent**.
- **Jesus** is our city of refuge.

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⁷And they appointed **Kedesh** in Galilee in mount Naphtali, and **Shechem** in mount Ephraim, and **Kirjatharba**, which is Hebron, in the mountain of Judah.

1 Corinthians 2:6-8 (KJV)

⁸And on the other side Jordan by Jericho eastward, they assigned **Bezer** in the wilderness upon the plain out of the tribe of Reuben, and **Ramoth** in Gilead out of the tribe of Gad, and **Golan** in Bashan out of the tribe of Manasseh.

Acts 17:27 (KJV)

²⁷That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

⁹These were the cities appointed for all the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them, that whosoever killeth any person at unawares might flee thither, and not die by the hand of the avenger of blood, until he stood before the congregation.

- If one left the city before the high priest died, even after being found innocent, the **avenger** of blood could kill him without punishment (Num. 35).
- Christ protects from the **penalty** of sin, which is Hell.

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- Without Christ we lack the **protection** from the punishment to come.
- **Salvation** by grace alone through Christ is not man's idea, but God's.

2 Corinthians 6:2 (KJV)

²(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, **now is the day of salvation.**)

Psalms 91:2 (KJV)

²I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

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