

The Seamless Robe of Jesus

Jesus had already been arrested, tried in the kangaroo courts of man, and sentenced to die. Our Lord had been beaten mercilessly, mocked, spit upon; even His facial hair had been pulled out by the roots (Isaiah 5:6). The crowd mentality had taken over. The Sanhedrin, and later the soldiers, had become no more than a depraved street gang who, in their cowardice, now sink to an all-time low. Not only did they touch the only truly holy Man Who ever lived, but they dared to strike Christ. The Bible says, *“And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him, saying, Prophecy, who is it that smote thee?”* (Luke 22:64). *“And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands”* (John 19:3). Yet, the worst was yet to come. They led Christ up the Via Dolorosa, “the way of the pain.” Our Lord travels the ascent of Calvary and they nail Him to the cross. The sickening sound of simultaneous popping occurs when the full weight of the cross hits the bottom of the cavity awaiting this cruel instrument of death. They heard the inimitable sound of bones coming out of joint. The pain in the hands and feet increases as our Lord moves in the slightest on the wooden crossbeam of execution. Behold our King, our Savior, our God!

The Lord Jesus seems to have abdicated long before this event of all worldly “tie downs.” The Scriptures say, *“And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head”* (Luke 9:58). So all that now remains of Jesus’ possessions are the clothes He was wearing the night of His arrest. They had been pulled from His body for His beating and exchanged for the robe of mockery. His tunic was the scarlet robe; his headpiece was the crown of thorns. The division is made among the heartless soldiers except for one piece of clothing. *“Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout”* (John 19:23). As the clothing was divided up, they evidently had taken some interest in the garment without seam. To those tailors and seamstresses, we have something that stands out. Someone had taken the extra effort to make a seamless inner tunic for our Lord. I read recently that this kind of a garment is valuable. The quality of the material chosen was durable and costly to withstand often wearing. Being worn next to the body, which would absorb the sweat and endure friction, would require comfort as well as strength to its constitutional fabric. We do not have details. We see one of the priestly garments is spoken of as seamless in Exodus 39:23, *“And there was a hole in the midst of the robe, as the hole of a habergeon, with a band round about the hole, that it should not rend”*. We know also this seamless robe was prophesied, *“They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture”* (Psalm 22:18). Gaming over Jesus’ robe at the foot of His cross!

On this first Sunday of 2009, let us consider three impressions. I am impressed...

I. A Priceless Investment of Worship

This robe was made by someone who showed their esteemed value of Jesus.

A. Their time was given.

It took a lot of time and effort to make such a garment. If time is equated as money, this clothing represents quite a sum. In this new year, please consider giving your Lord your time in public worship, private devotion and serving others. *“... Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me”* (Matthew 25:40).

B. Their talent was given.

From our understanding, not just anyone was able to make such a robe. Although a simple, modest robe, it was exquisite in quality work and intricately woven. To keep the even flow of design and uphold its shape and operation it had to be sewn by one who was talented. It was said of Hiram when aiding Solomon in building the temple: "...he was filled with wisdom, and understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass. And he came to king Solomon, and wrought all his work" (I Kings 7:14). Although Hiram's work was in brass, somebody who knew tailoring gave their best talents to Christ.

C. Their exaltation of Jesus was on display.

This robe may have been this person's best handiwork ever done, but it was worn as the inner garment, rarely seen by anyone but Jesus. Let us follow the example and do our works for the Lord, unto the Lord. The Bible says of the Pharisees: "*For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God*" (John 12:43). Paul said to the Colossians and to us: "*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men*" (Colossians 3:23).

II. A precursor of a priceless redemption

"*And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom*" (Mark 15:38). The veil of which is spoken here is the veil of the temple that divided man from God. It was seven to nine inches in thickness and it took a whole line of oxen to lift this massive curtain. Only once a year could the high priest dare venture beneath the curtain and that was on the Day of Atonement and then only with blood. The Bible says, "*Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us*" (Hebrews 9:12). When Jesus cried from the cross, "*It is finished*" (John 19:30), the veil was torn, not from the bottom to the top, but from the top to the bottom. This showed only the hand of God did this! The Bible said, "...*now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout*" (John 19:23). It is significant to note, the material had been sewn from the top down. Christ, who is God, came to the earth for us, to make the way to God available for us. Philippians 2: 6 through 8 says, "*Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*" We see Christ's seamless robe, still intact following the tearing of the veil. "*By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh*" (Hebrews 10:19, 20). Many believe the ancient robe not only survived the event of the cross, but is still in tact in Germany or Georgia (on the periphery of Russia). We do not pay homage to the whole cloth that at one time covered Jesus; we pay homage to Christ, who covers us! This we know, that Christ rose from the grave bodily, and though He was torn, crucified and died for us, He lives and is seated on the right hand of the Father making intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25).

III. A prophetic symbol of the inseparable Body of Christ

We see the disciples scattered as Christ dies. "*Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad*" (Matthew 26:31). Yet, after Christ is risen from the dead, He collects His disciples. He calms them, reassures them and proves Himself to them. Then He tells them to go to Jerusalem to wait until they receive power from the promised Third Person of The Holy Trinity (Luke 24:49). They are empowered on the day of Pentecost and two thousand years later the church is still here. "...*And upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*" (Matthew 16:18). When all other institutions of man have failed, Christ's Church, like His seamless robe, shall remain un-torn, undiminished and ready for rapture! "*But now are they many members, yet but one body*" (I Corinthians 12:20).

- Pastor Pope -

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