
I WON'T FORGET THE MAN WHO DIED

EXODUS 30:11-16



"I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free." My son Scot and I play this song and croak along with it every morning on our ride to his school. Whatever else is going on, it's good to remember our fundamental freedom. **"At least I know I'm free."** But are we? Sure, we're politically free, we're free citizens. But are we really free, fully free?

Not according to God. In his Word, God teaches us that we are born in spiritual chains, spiritual bondage (John 8:31-36). The devil has kidnapped us and claimed us as his own. How can we get free? The next lines in Lee Greenwood's song give us a hint. **"And I won't forget the men who died, Who gave that right to me."** Can anyone pay a ransom to free us spiritually? Let's study ransom in Exodus 30:11-16, in order to learn more about how God provides a ransom.

LEARNING

A RANSOM RECOGNIZES OWNERSHIP (12-14)

God instructed Moses to take a census of Israel. Each person 20 years old and upwards was to give half a shekel as an offering to the Lord. God called this payment a ransom that saved them from the plague and spared their lives. When paying this, Israel would be reminded that now they were not their own but belonged to God, the God who held their health and their lives in his hand.

WE OWE GOD
BECAUSE HE OWNS US.

But no one would pay a ransom for my little life, would they?

A RANSOM REFLECTS VALUE (15)

The value of every single life was reflected in the fact that the rich gave the same as the poor and that the poor were not exempted from paying despite their poverty. All lives mattered, and all lives mattered equally.

CALCULATE YOUR VALUE
BY CALCULATING YOUR RANSOM.

What does life look like after the ransom is paid?

A RANSOM RESULTS IN FREEDOM (16)

You shall take the atonement money from the people of Israel and shall give it for the service of the tent of meeting, that it may bring the people of Israel to remembrance before the Lord, so as to make atonement for your lives (16). The ransom was an atonement, and reminded Israel that God secured their freedom and therefore was to be honored as their liberator.

I'M HUMBLED TO BE A CHRISTIAN,
WHERE AT LEAST I KNOW I'M FREE.

LOVING

God was not only teaching Israel that by God's grace, they belonged to God, they were valuable to God, and they were freed by God. He was also preparing vocabulary and concepts that he would use to teach his New Testament church about Jesus. Jesus himself used this language and idea to explain who he was and what he was doing. **The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many** (Matt. 20:28; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 1 Cor. 6:19-20). In the New Testament, we don't even have to pay a cent towards the ransom. **"Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe."**

Let's praise the Redeemer who paid our ransom with his own life, and in so doing said, "You're mine, you're valuable, and you're free." Let's say of Jesus, **"I won't forget the man who died who gave that right to me."**

LIVING

Remember and honor the liberator who paid your ransom and tell other captives about it too.
