

There is a Redeemer [Eternal life]

'Sing and Study' Bible Study Series | compiled by Rev. Irene Bom

LENT 5B | Study 5 of 6

SING

THERE IS A REDEEMER / CH4 559

by Melody Green

1 There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit,
till the work on earth is done.

2 Jesus my Redeemer, name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, once for sinners slain.

3 When I stand in glory I will see his face,
and there I'll serve my King for ever, in that holy place.

ICE BREAKER (allow 20 minutes)

Prep: Sing the song (or listen to a recording) and have someone read out the DID YOU KNOW? column.

Song: What connections, memories or feelings does the song evoke for you? Is there a verse, phrase or image that is particularly meaningful?

Theme: Have someone read out the quotation below. Note how 'Eternal life' features in the song.

ETERNAL LIFE

source: <https://www.theologyofwork.org/the-high-calling/daily-reflection/eternal-life-0>

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

Eternal life is more than life without end. The Greek phrase translated as "eternal life" means, literally, "life of the aeon" or "life of the age to come." It refers, not just to life without end, but to a new quality of life. Eternal life is the life of God's future, life as it was meant to be.

As Christians, we begin to experience eternal life even before we die. When we draw near to God and receive his

DID YOU KNOW?

This song was written in 1977 by Melody Green, two years after she and her husband, Keith Green, both from a Jewish background, came to faith in Jesus at a bible study.

Keith decided to release the song on his 1982 album, *Songs for the Shepherd*, and wrote a new verse for it, envisioning a time 'When I stand in glory I shall see his face'.

Sadly, in July 1982, just months after the song was released, Keith died in a plane crash, along with two of their children. He was 28. Melody was nursing a baby at the time and was pregnant with their fourth child.

peace, when he heals our broken relationships, when we catch glimpses of God's justice in the world, we receive a foretaste of the life to come.

Moreover, we have the high calling and privilege of participating with God in allowing the world to see eternal life through us. This happens in a multitude of ways as we live each day by God's guidance and for his glory.

In summary the context is:

1. Jesus and his disciples are in Jerusalem, days before his death.
2. Following the raising of Lazarus (John 11) and the Palm Sunday procession, the Pharisees are alarmed at Jesus' rising popularity, saying, 'Look, the world has gone after him' (John 12:19).

Read John 12:20-33

DISCUSSION

Listening & Learning Questions

1. What verse jumps out at you? Why?
2. Mary Hinkle Shore writes, 'this reading uses simple vocabulary that is filled with theological content.' Discuss.
3. One of John's major themes is that Jesus is the Saviour of the world, not simply the Redeemer of Israel (see John 1:29, 3:16, 4:42, 6:33, 8:12). Explore the passage with this in mind.
4. What do we learn from this passage about Jesus' approaching death?
5. 'Glorify' is used a number of times in this passage. Explore its use and meaning.

Heart & Healing Questions

1. If we want to 'see' Jesus for who he truly is, what should we expect to see?
2. Explore the implications of Jesus' words, 'the hour has come'.
3. What does this passage reveal about Jesus' emotional state? Can you see parallels with Matt 26:37-38?
4. If eternal life is 'a new quality of life', now and in the future, where do you see 'eternal life' in your own experience?
5. What word or phrase from the passage (or the song) will you carry with you this week?

COMMENTARY

v.20 The *Greeks* were probably God-fearers who attended Jewish synagogues and feasts or they were Greek-speaking diaspora Jews. **v.21** *Philip* is a Greek name. **v.21** *Bethsaida*, home town of Philip, Peter and Andrew, was a city in Galilee, near Capernaum. *Bethsaida* means 'house of fish' in Hebrew. **v.22** *Andrew* is also a Greek name. **v.25** *lose* means 'loss of well-being' **v.25** in John's gospel the word *hate* means 'reject'. **v.25** *keep* means 'to safeguard, protect'. **v.27** the Greek word for *troubled* suggests 'violently disturbed'. **v.31** the *world* represents the people who reject the values, beliefs and morals of God. **v.31** for *prince of this world* see also John 14:30, 16:11. **v.32** *when I am lifted up* is a reference to Jesus' crucifixion (see also John 3:14, 8:28).

CLOSING (allow 5-10 minutes)

Sing the first (or third) verse of *There is a Redeemer* (or listen to a recording) and end with the closing prayer.

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. 'Sir,' they said, 'we would like to see Jesus.' ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

²⁷ 'Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!'

Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.'

²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Jesus said, 'This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.'

³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

CLOSING PRAYER

by Nathan Nettleton, posted on <http://www.laughingbird.net/>

Go now, to serve Christ and follow him.
Let your old life fall like a grain of wheat into the earth
so that you may bear much fruit
as you allow God to reshape your heart
and live in obedience to the law written within you.

And may God centre you in truth and steady your spirit.
May Christ renew your joy and strengthen your will.
And may the Spirit teach you God's hidden wisdom
and fill you with songs of rejoicing.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

In the name of Christ. Amen.