

Taking The Hit For Someone Else

By Clay Barnes

At the heart of a story about keeping and breaking covenants, revenge, and ritual execution is the poignant action of a heartbroken, noble mother. That Rizpah *and* her two sons are named (whereas the five grandsons also slaughtered are not) suggests that who she is and what she does is of the utmost importance to the story as a whole. The story line is this: a famine rages throughout Israel for three years. So David inquires of Yahweh, who responds that bloodguilt rests upon Saul and his house because he put the Gibeonites to death. David then asks the Gibeonites how they might be avenged. After some discussion, they ask for seven of Saul's sons so that they can put them to death before the Lord. Seeking to spare Jonathan's house in honor of his covenant, David takes the two sons of Rizpah and five sons of Merob and hands

them over to the Gibeonites who put them to a gruesome death. Here is where the Men's Mom Rizpah comes in. II Samuel 21: 10 ***“And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and spread it for her upon the rock, from the beginning of harvest until water dropped upon them out of heaven, and suffered neither the birds of the air to rest on them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night.”*** Can you imagine being so devoted to what you were doing that you would stay out in the elements, and perform physical exercise that would cause you to work up a nasty sweat, and then not bathe for months? Yuck! What kind of dedication was that? After all, her sons were not even at fault, but yet she is taking the “hit”. Look at the she is showing. Total unselfish love. Sound familiar? Isn't that what Christ showed us? Read Philippians 2: 6-8 with me please. ***“Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing,***

taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross". Christ like Rizpah put his wants, desires, and himself behind him so we could live a life of dignity. Even though life had gone out of them she preserved their dignity by keeping vultures and animals from eating their de-composing flesh. Even though we were spiritually dead, Jesus showed us the same care. Look how Paul puts it in Romans 5: 6-9. ***"But God commented his love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."*** Thanks to their Mom's diligent attention their dead bodies were saved from further humiliation. Again, look at the parallels. Through Christ we are saved! Through Christ we are saved from a life of ugly sin! Look at what Jesus went through.

The beatings, torture, being spit in the face, His perfect name being ridiculed by false accusations, and the list goes on. The actions of Rizpah and Christ brings to mind this passage of scripture. Romans 8: 37-39. ***“ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”.*** Nothing was going to get in the way of Rizpah doing that final act of love for her boys, and nothing was going to stop the Gospel plan of Salvation that was established during the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord. Lastly consider Ezra 6: 21. ***“And the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of***

the land, to seek the Lord God of Israel, did eat.” Satan is the most filthiest impurity that's ever existed. Rizpah took the hit for her boys and Christ took the hit for us and kept sin at bay so that we could live for an eternity with him. If we take the hit from Satan and do not activate the protection Jesus gives us then we are miserable on earth and miserable for eternity!

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