

## **Rizpah: Sacrificed for Social Justice**

(2 Samuel 21:1-14)

### **I. THE DEMAND FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE ()**

#### **A. The Sins of The Fathers (Ex 20:5; Rom 5:14; 1 Cor 15:22)**

1. **The Guilt of the Race** —*Corporate identity, racial tensions*

2. **The Heads of State**—*Representative of the Nation*

#### **B. Crimes Against God and Man—*Collective Outrage***

1. **Violating an Ancient Treaty** (Josh 9)—*Joshua's treaty with Gibeon*

2. **Attempting Ethnic Cleansing** ()—*Saul's slaughter of the Gibeonites*

#### **C. The Good of the Many ()—*individual rights versus national interest***

#### **D. The Sacrifice to Aton—*seven of Saul's male descendents***

1. **To Expiate Guilt** (Heb 9:22)—*pay for the wrong that was done*

2. **To Reconcile Parties** (Eph 2:16; Col 1:20)—

a. **Offense against God**—*the broken vow*

b. **Offense against a People**—*one group against another*

3. **To Restore Creation** (Rom 8:22)—*end drought, return the blessing*

### **II. THE LOSS OF A CHILD**

**A. The Grief of the Mothers**—Life outside of Eden is full of grief.

**B. The Injustice of Justice**—Someone needs to pay, but we can't punish the right person.

### III. **THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL**

#### A. **The Sacrifice of Jesus Christ**—*the only man who can atone for the race*

1. **Willing** (Mat 20:28; Jn 10:18; 12:27; Eph 5:2) —*He laid down His life.*
2. **Qualified** (1 Tim 2:5; Heb 7:27-28; 1 Pet 1:19; Rev 5:1-5) —  
The perfect lamb without blemish or defect; Son of Adam and *divine Son of God*,  
Himself the injured party
3. **Effective** (Acts 17:31; Heb 7:23-25) — *Resurrection shows His sacrifice has been accepted.*

#### B. **The Reconciliation of Races** (Acts 10:34-35; Rom 10:12-13; 1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:28; Eph 2:14-22; 1 Pet 2:9-10)

1. **Christian Unity**—*objective reality*
2. **Christian Practice**—*the power of forgiveness and love*

#### C. **The Coming of Shalom** (Isa 11:2-9; 32:15-18; 65:25; Rev 21:1-4; 22:1-5)—It's coming! Wait for it!

1. **Peace on Earth**—they will beat their swords into plow shears
2. **The Healing of All Creation**—There will be no more drought or famine or scarcity of any kind.

#### **Listen to the songs:**

"Praise You in This Storm" by Casting Crowns at <https://youtu.be/vCpP0mFD9F0>  
 "Is He Worthy?" by Andrew Peterson at <https://youtu.be/OIahc83Kvp4>

## **Lesson 11: Rizpah**

Read 2 Samuel 3:7 and 21:1-14; Job 16:11-17:3.

1. Who is Rizpah? How is she both extremely important in the kingdom of Israel and also practically powerless?
2. List all the things you can see that are *not fair* about Rizpah's life.
3. Although she is a widow, what would be the political implications if General Abner *had*, in fact, slept with her?
4. How does Rizpah end up losing both of her sons?
5. How is Rizpah a catalyst for reconciliation, both nationally and in the life of David?
6. How is Rizpah's experience similar to the experience of Mary the Mother of Jesus?
7. Dealing with grief:
  - a.) How does Rizpah deal with her grief as a bereft mother?
  - b.) What are some other ways she *might* have chosen to responded?
  - c.) What are some ways that people today process their grief (positive or negative)?
8. Loss and grief are universal to the human condition.
  - a.) How can we as Christians grieve well?
  - b.) How can we be sensitive and helpful to those who are grieving?
9. How does Jesus answer the cries of a grieving mother? (See Isaiah 53:4; Luke 7:12-16; Romans 8:28, 35-39.)
10. How does Jesus bring hope to the story of Rizpah?