

1 Ransomware

- The Price that was Paid

2 Scripture Reading

- Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.” “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked. They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.” (Mark 10:35–37 NIV)

3 Scripture Reading

- “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?” “We can,” they answered. (Mark 10:38–39a NIV)
- Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.” (Mark 10:39b–40 NIV)
- When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. (Mark 10:41 NIV)

4 Scripture Reading

- Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.” (Mark 10:42 NIV)
- “Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.” (Mark 10:43–44 NIV)
- “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45 NIV)

5 Ransom Letters

- As you probably have seen in hundreds of old movies and TV shows . . .
- Someone goes missing and then a note arrives with words formed with letters cut from an old magazine.
- The note usually demands a large sum of money, and, in return, the missing person or cat will be released safe.

6 Ransom Notes

- The truth is, however, that the multi-letter, glued-together ransom note is really more Hollywood than history.
- Looking at some of the most infamous kidnapping cases in history (like the kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby and Patty Hearst), we discover that most high profile ransom notes were handwritten, hastily scrawled for maximum timeliness and impact.
- This was before the advent of the personal computer, however, and now it's possible to send a ransom note without needing any paper at all.

7 Ransomware

- In fact, now the ransom note might be about your computer itself.
- Criminals have discovered that often what's most important to us isn't just the people we care about, but also the data we store.
- A new generation of digital kidnapers now can abduct the data in a computer through the sneaky installation of malware—malicious software.
- They then demand a ransom from the computer's owner before releasing control of the data back to them.
- It's called "ransomware" and it's a major new crime in our digitally connected world.

8 **How it Works**

- It works something like this: you get an e-mail or visit a website, which looks innocent enough, but when you click on the attachment or navigate in the website it releases the ransomware virus into your computer's operating system.
- The ransomware either encrypts all your files, making them inaccessible to you, or it locks your home screen.
- A pop-up message then appears that states that it will cost you some money to regain access and control of your computer.

9 **CryptoLocker**

10 **How it Works**

- The ransom usually costs anywhere between \$24 and \$600, payable through a credit card or an alternative form of payment.
- Paying the ransom doesn't guarantee you'll regain full, private control of your computer, either.
- You will always know that someone can take over your digital life at any time.

11 **Spiritual Malware**

- Just as ransomware can hijack our computers and lockup all our valuable files, so can malware of the spiritual kind—known as sin.
- In our text tonight, James and John were infected with this malware as they sought through "selfish ambition" to become Jesus' number 1 and number 2 officials in His kingdom.
- They had no idea that their spiritual operating system was infected with a virus that was causing them to make foolish requests and unservant-like demands.

12 **Spiritual Malware**

- Jesus knows that, if this sort of attitude infects them and the other disciples, it will totally freeze their spiritual life and any opportunity to be of service in the kingdom of God.
- So Jesus isn't buying what they're selling.

- He says, “You do not know what you are asking?”

13 **Spiritual Malware**

- “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.” (Mark 10:39–40 NIV)
- Then Jesus explains how he, himself, will offer his life as a “ransom” —implying that He will unfreeze, unlock, bring to life those whose lives are mired in, stuck in, frozen in sin.

14 **Spiritual Malware**

- The other 10 disciples were “indignant” when they heard about this exchange, probably because they hadn’t thought of the scheme first.
- But Jesus, the expert, pulls them all aside, and begins to talk about the problem of sinful pride that’s been infecting them all.
- So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them.” (Mark 10:42)
- It is often those in power, in other words, who tend to hold people hostage, requiring much from them while giving little or nothing in return.

15 **Spiritual Economics**

- “Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.” (Mark 10:43–44 NIV)
- Those who follow Jesus do not hold others hostage to their ambition and personal gain.
- Instead, they pay dearly on behalf of others, giving of themselves and their resources to serve others.
- It’s the paradoxical economics of Jesus: You only gain when you give away.

16 **Ransom**

- Then Jesus explains what he will be giving away: his very life. “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45 NIV)
- This is foreshadowing, of course, of what Jesus will do on the cross.
- He will address the problem of a people whose lives are locked and encrypted by sin by paying the ransom permanently, and doing a total system reboot that will keep them clean and secure forever.

17 **Ransom in the New Testament**

- It’s no coincidence that this theme of the cross as ransom is prevalent throughout the New Testament.

- In 1 Timothy 2:5-6, Paul makes it plain that there is only one who mediates between God and mankind, bridging the gap in the relationship caused by the malware of sin: For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men — the testimony given in its proper time.
- Elsewhere, Paul reminds us that we were “bought with a price” (1 Corinthians 6:20) and that “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us” (Galatians 3:13).

18 Freedom to Serve God

- In other words, we are set free to operate and work as God designed us to function; to give our lives on behalf of others so that they, too, may experience the freedom and new life offered by Jesus Christ.
- Whatever it is, if the gospel is anything, it is about being freed from the things that freeze and lock us up.
- It is about being set free! It is about being released to a new life!

19 Freedom

- In fact, the New Testament is all about freedom . . .
 - Freedom from the power of sin.
 - Freedom from the obtrusive Mosaic Law—along with its many rituals, ceremonies, food laws, and other requirements.
 - However, it is not about freedom from true moral or spiritual obligations.
- As the Apostle Paul says, You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. (1 Cor 6:19–20 NIV)

20 Freedom to Serve

- Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation — but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. (Rom 8:12 NIV)
- You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. (Gal 5:13 NIV)
- Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. (1 Pet 2:16 NIV)

21 The New Covenant

- The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! (Heb 9:13–14 NIV)

- For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. (Heb 9:15 NIV)

22 **Ready to Serve**

- In Christ, we are ransomed from Satan’s control so that we can serve God in spirit and in truth—keeping a clean conscience before God so that we can pray.
- This is why we should keep ourselves in God’s Word and regularly fellowship with the people of God to encourage us in our faith.
- We are new creatures in Christ and more than conquerors because through the atonement of Christ and the activity of the Holy Spirit we can do all things.

23 **Ready to Serve**

- While we may be “born-again” Christians—having Jesus installed on our spiritual computer, we still need to run the application to keep our hearts pure and ready for fruitful service.
- To Christians, the Apostle John writes, But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, . . . the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. (1 John 1:7 NIV)
- The Apostle Peter says the same thing in his epistle, when he talks about purifying ourselves by obeying the truth. (1 Pet 1:22)

24 **Ready to Serve**

- It should not be a surprise to anyone that we live in an evil and wicked generation—good is being called evil and evil is being called good.
- However, this was also true of the environment of the early Church when the Apostle Paul called the church to become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life. (Phil 2:15–16 NIV)
- However, it is not easy to resist all the temptations that are around us. This is why God has given us this promise as well. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 NIV)

25 **Pure Motives Clean Heart**

- Jesus has ransomed us from Satan’s power so that we can serve God with pure motives and a clean heart.
- We do this when we receive Christ as Lord and Savior and keep ourselves in His Word.

- In other words, Jesus not only cleans our spiritual computer from malware, but keeps it clean—as we keep it running in our operating system—our souls.

26 **Conclusion**

- Tonight as we take communion, let us remember that Jesus paid the price to ransom us from the devil's control.
- He did this so that we could serve Him and receive from Him eternal life and an inheritance that words can't fully describe.
- As the Apostle John has said, Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. (1 John 3:3 NIV)
- Come Lord Jesus! Amen!