

Jan 25th 2009: We are Many but we are One: Rev 5:9-14

Last Sat.....I was standing outside the church with Terry ...when a young man... He was obviously under the influence.....and he was extremely angry.....

That's not a normal experience.....and yet for some....it may well be
There seems to be so much anger in our world today

And altho we may sing with Peter Allen.....**We are One...we are Australians**
Too often our Nation suffers from violence and tension....different races/cultures

The sad thing is that it was that way in the time of Christ.....**has** been ever since
The question is...is there a solution?And if so what is it?

- **For the answer** we turn...inspired writing of a man.....lived at a most violent time as far as the church.....**His name**.....John...old, weary...a prisoner

I'm pretty certain.....he...feeling down...disillusioned....and uncertain of the future

- **The church was under attack from without**.....And from within
And he personally was a victim of the anger...directed against God's work...people

Surely John the disciple.....was at his lowest point ever.....when on the Lord's Day
He stood alone on the Isle of Patmos.....

and in the Spirit he poured out his heart in worship

And there God met Him.....and gave him for his own encouragement and for..
..a revelation of what the future holds....& how God will preserve His..

*And I find that the Lord does the same for me too
At my lowest points He just comes alongside....often in times of worship
And somehow he cheers my heart.....Lets me know....control....all will be ok*

And included in that revelation....were some great hymns of praise and worship

Like the one

we had read to us....from Revelation chapter 5

- **At the beginning of this chapter**.....sense John's great excitement
In the right hand.....there is this scroll....
and it contains the mysteries of things to come....**It reveals** the ultimate Triumph

How God will take His people through the suffering that must come...& preserve

This is what John wants to see

He wants to know that God will win out.....That all the suffering will be worthwhile

So you can imagine his outburst of grief when no one is found who is worthy....

Then we read in v5

Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

So John looks at the Lion.....& the Lion is transformed into a Lamb...looking as tho
And It is the Lion....who has become the lamb.....**WHO is worthy**

Suffering allows the lion to transform into the lamb

Suffering enables the Lamb to take the book and open the seals

- **And this is so amazing**.....that the whole of heaven falls down before the lamb
And erupts in a mighty...ever increasing.....crescendo of praise and worship

Verse 9 says

**And they sang a new song:
"You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased men for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation.
You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth."**

*(Some years ago, I went to hear a production of the **Messiah** at Winthrop Hall)*

**Notice here how this song of Praise just grows and grows
Until the whole of heaven pulsates to its rhythm**

- **Its started by the 24 elders** around the throne
- **Then the angels join in**....thousands upon thousands and ten thousand times
- **And then in v12** they are joined by every creature.....

And the reason they are so excited.....so full of praise....because of what the lamb

**"You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased men for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation.**

**Here is the answer.....for the problem of
anger....division....hatred.....suffering....pain
Racial discrimination.....violence.....cruelty**

Its found in the cross of Calvary.....Where God the Son poured out
His love....Mercy.....Forgiveness.....and newness of heart.....To all who cry out

In Christ the barriers are broken....The scars can be healed...Unity becomes the way

(In Malaysia back in Dec 2005)

That's all part of the gift.....Jesus purchased for us....with His blood

And though the final consummation of that gift waits the time when the Lord will....
It is still a gift that Jesus continues to bless broken world with....through His people

If you count yourself today as a disciple

Then He is already changing you from the inside.....Changing your attitudes
Breaking down any hardness....

Filling you with His love.....**and then** passing it on thro you to others

**The challenge this morning.....is to ask Him use you more
And then to seek this week to particularly notice**

Those who are needy.....Those who are different because of race or other reason
To reach out to them with a smile.....**Or** to help those who may be having difficulty

To in some small way spread the gift of love by what you do...how you treat them
How you care

For Jesus is growing His kingdom still.....
from every tribe, language, people, nation

And we have this wonderful privilege.....of being part of that too.