All-conquering Love

Song of Solomon 8:6; Isaiah 25:8; Jeremiah 31:3; John 3:16; 8:58; 19:30; Ephesians 2:4-5; Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 10:10; 1 John 3:1; 4:9-10; Revelation 5:1-6



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TOPICS: God's Love; Jesus' Suffering & Death; Lent-Easter

LEAD-IN: "Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. 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."

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders.

And they sang a new song, saying:
"You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased for God
persons 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." (Revelation 5:1-6, 9-10, NIV)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

Ferocious Love

Transcendent Father, unseen God,

You longed for us to know You.

You let us touch You with our senses

in creation and

at Mt. Sinai,

through the tabernacle and

through Your prophets.

But all the while You promised to share Yourself fully through

a person who was to come,

a man filled with Your own Spirit.

This specially Anointed One, this Messiah, would

live among us and

rule over us.

His Kingdom would extend

through every nation and

through all time.

He would bring all the blessings You had ever promised.

As the centuries passed, Your promises of this Messiah became

increasingly detailed and vivid.

We longed for His coming.

But when He arrived, we didn't recognize Him.

He was not what we expected.

You are Almighty God, and

Messiah was to be Your full revelation of Yourself.

We expected Him to be a commanding leader, a powerful warrior, an unstoppable conqueror. We thought He would be like a roaring lion that no one would dare challenge. We thought He would be fearfully holy and bring fiery judgment to all the wicked. But instead, He arrived as the weakest and lowliest of all human creaturesa helpless infant born of an unmarried peasant girl. He wasn't a king – not what we considered a king. There wasn't anything regal about Him. He was a rural laborer with an accent to match. He wasn't a mighty warrior. He was a gentle healer, a teacher with little formal education. He didn't live in a palace. He was a homeless wanderer. His holiness wasn't fearful or awe-inspiring. He befriended sinners, whom respectable people avoided. He socialized with them and received them warmly. The only people He condemned were the ones we considered the most religious. He scolded them for their pride and hypocrisy. This Messiah didn't prowl and roar like a lion. In the end, He died like a lamb, meek, silent, and defenseless. He gave us a living picture of You, but You were not who we expected. We expected to experience Your fiery, ferocious, all-conquering power.

Instead, we experienced Your

fiery,

ferocious,

all-conquering love.

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