

Freedom isn't free

Exodus 12:1-14

October 23, 2005

he had already seen them holding in their arms the lifeless carcasses of their sheep,
their goats, their donkeys
he had already seen their grief, almost inconsolable, over their stricken livestock

but now he bears his own grief ... now he holds in his own arms a lifeless body, the
lifeless body of a human being, the lifeless body of his own son

this is a grief beyond consolation
this is a wound that can never be healed
this is a horror that no father should ever endure

but this is the price paid for the freedom of the Hebrews slaves
nothing short of this would ever turn aside the stubborn will of the Egyptian
king

this was the price he paid for the freedom of the Hebrews
this was the price he paid for the freedom of the Hebrews
this was the price he -- the Lord -- paid for the freedom of the Hebrews!

it is God's own child who is stricken, God's own son who dies
it is God's heart that is broken that night

it is always God who pays the dearest price for our failures, for our sins
our stubbornness, our cruelty, our hardness of heart, our lack of pity, our
prejudices, our neglectfulness, our faithlessness bring God indescribable pain
God grieves our ignorance, our malice, our pride, and the untold suffering
ignorance and malice and pride bring down on ourselves and our neighbors

God grieves the pain and suffering of his children, of all his children, of any one of his
children
God rejoices to see the his Hebrew children marching out of Egypt -- which God
made happen -- free at last from the terror of slavery in Egypt
but God grieves the price that is paid for their freedom, the death of his
Egyptian children ... which God made happen

it is God's heart that is broken that night
it is God's own child who is stricken, God's own son who dies to set the Hebrews
free

and it is God's own son who dies to set us free
Christ, our passover, is sacrificed for us

*we are healed by the punishment he suffered,
made whole by the blows he received
all of us were like sheep that were lost,
each of us going his own way
but the Lord made the punishment fall on him
the punishment all of us deserved*