

Lent, Day 11
Monday, March 18, 2019

Revelation 5:1–14

Holiness isn't about getting to a place of perfection where we won't need God. Holiness is about recognizing our utter dependence on God. When we are perfectly holy we will perfectly embrace our creatureliness and dependence on our creator. This is important for lent because we can be tempted to view lent as a pursuit of holiness.

Of course, it is. We are called to be holy, so we must pursue holiness. We just have to be careful what we think holiness is. No matter how holy we are or become we are not holy enough. Enough for what? To be the instrument of God's rescue of his creation. That is what's going on in this heavenly scene. This scroll is God's plan to heal the world; to set right all that is wrong. But, when all of creation is searched there is neither human nor animal fit to open it and look into it.

John's tears are not because he has been found unworthy. He knows that about himself already. His tears are about how God's plan will move forward. God has pledged himself to redeem his creation through humanity. When humanity fell God purposed to rescue humanity through Israel. Yet Israel herself is in need of rescue—how will God's plan move forward. Look! The Messiah! He is worthy to open the scroll.

He is at the same time the lion a symbol of power and victory. He is also the slain lamb which is a symbol for weakness, purity, and sacrifice. These two come together to describe the Messiah's vocation and to describe his worthiness. We can be holy, but we can never take his place. Our pursuit of holiness is to see him and worship him because he is worthy.

Prayer

Lion and lamb make us holy as you are holy, so we may see you and worship. Thank you for opening God's scroll and overcoming the powers that have kept us in bondage. Amen.