

# WEEKLY SERMON

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## The significance of The Lamb

At the end of Easter Week it is hard to look back over what should have been a great Christian holiday without feeling anger, dismay and sorrow over the murder of our Christian brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka.

Much has been said by our political and spiritual leaders and I feel I cannot add to it except that my prayers, as I'm sure the prayers of the Christian communities around the world are with the victims and their families.

On a much lighter note I noticed with some interest during Holy Week the amount of supermarket advertising centred on the purchase of lamb for Easter lunch.

Lamb is obviously becoming to Easter what turkey is to Christmas. This made me think, do the advertisers really know the significance of what they are persuading us to buy?

If we were to cast our minds back approximately 3800 years, we have the story of God testing Abraham by telling him to sacrifice his son Isaac.

Abraham is about to commit the deed when God stops him and supplies a ram for slaughter (Gen 22).

Fast forward 350 years and we read of Moses rescuing his people from slavery in Egypt. The last plague is due; the death of the firstborn males. Moses instructs the people to kill an appropriate number of lambs at twilight, smear their door posts with the lamb's blood and they are saved from the plague and the Exodus begins (Ex 12).

We then come forward about 1400 years where we find John the Baptist speaking to his disciples. He Sees Jesus in the distance and says "Look, the lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world".

Jesus ate His Passover meal which would have been lamb and He went to His death as the Lamb of God. He smeared the cross with His blood bringing us new life and allowing our Exodus from the slavery of sin to our Promised Land.

Jesus gave up his life at the 9th hour (3pm) which I'm told is the traditional time to slay the Passover lamb. I wonder if any of this went through the advertiser's minds as they wrote their scripts?

On Breakfast TV Tuesday of Holy week the weather lady said that the weather for Good Friday would be warm and dry, she went on to say perfect for hanging out the washing.

There was a saying along the line of don't air your dirty washing in public which made me think. Good Friday was the perfect day for me to air my dirty washing at the foot of the cross whilst begging the Lamb of God to take away my sins.

Just a thought!

**Geoff Hutchinson**

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