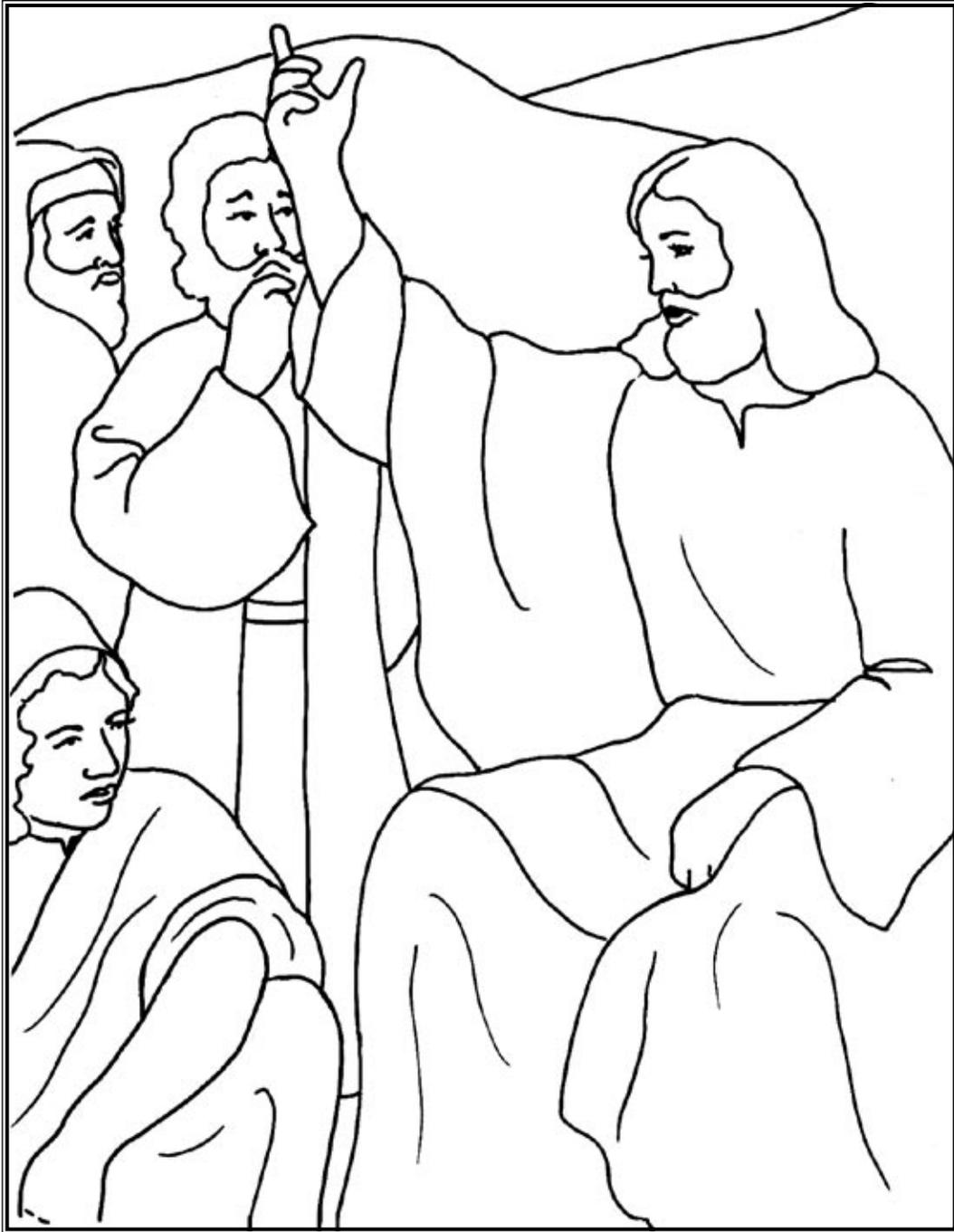


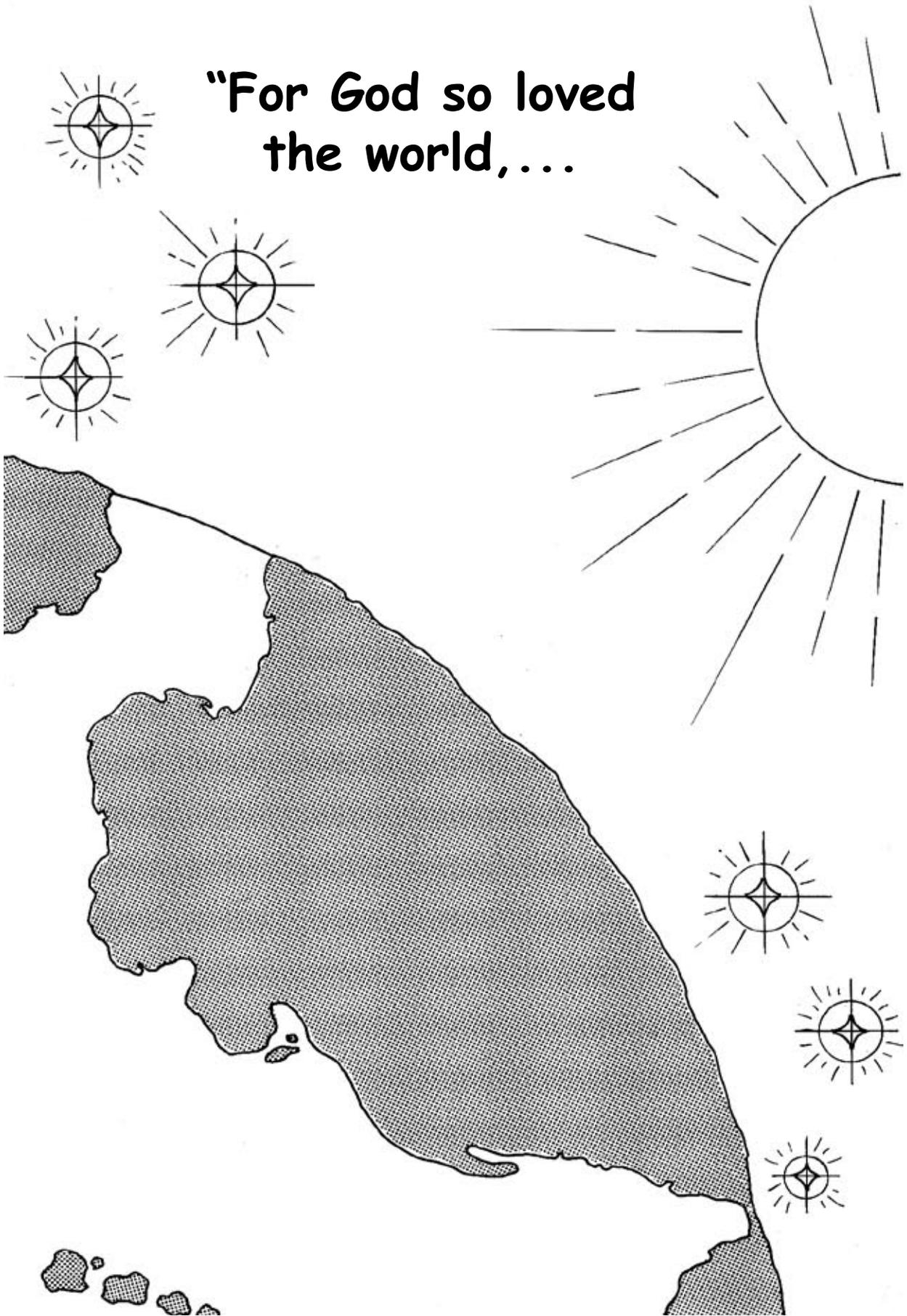
# Understanding the Ransom

**"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."**

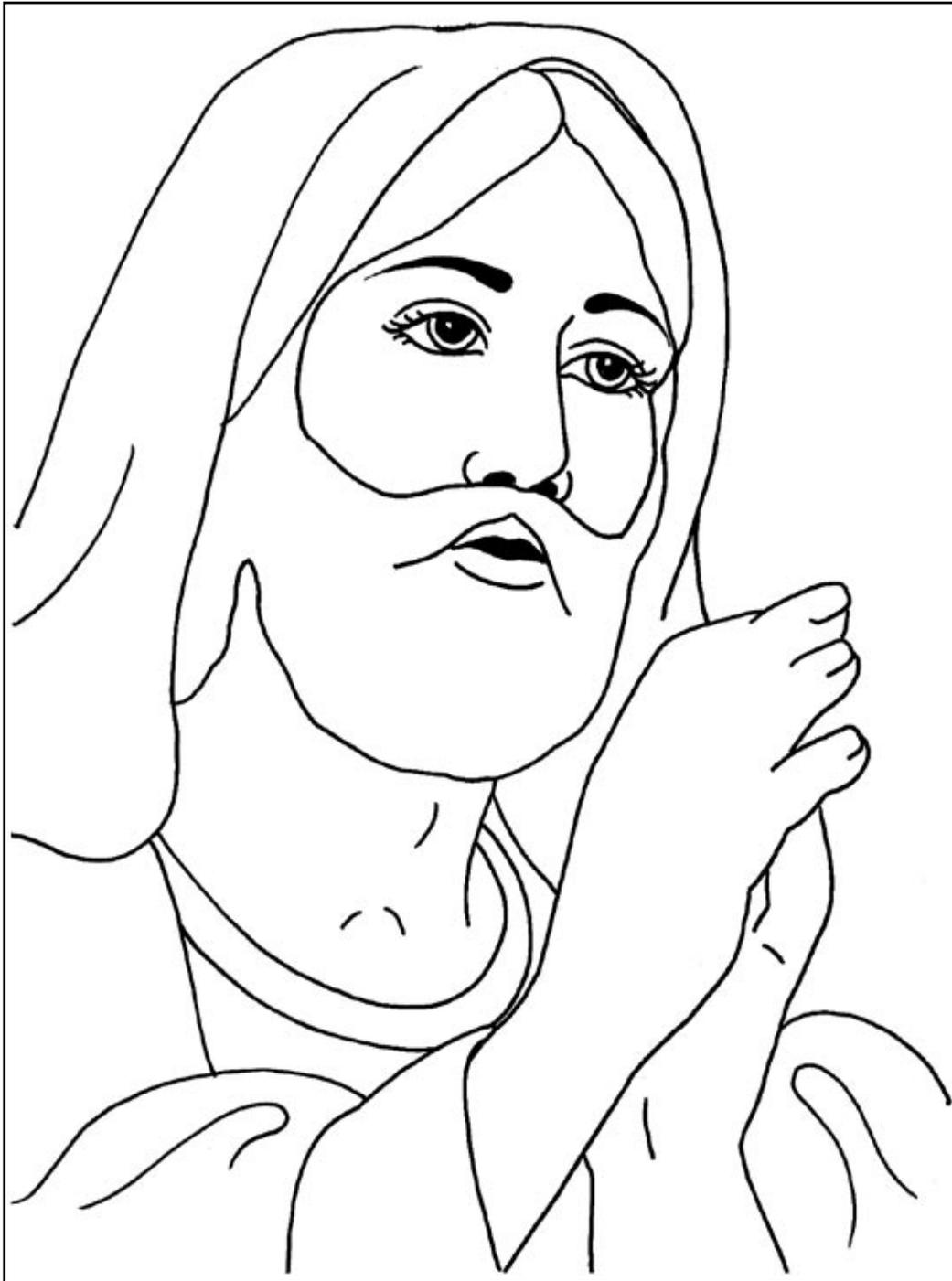
John 1:29



**"For God so loved  
the world,...."**



...that He gave  
His only begotten Son,...



...that whoever believes in him  
should not perish,...



**...but shall have  
everlasting life.” John 3:16**



To understand the **ransom** sacrifice of Jesus life, it is necessary to first understand the importance of all life—the great gift each of God's creation receives from Him. The story of Cain and Abel, two sons of Adam and Eve, provides a helpful lesson on this subject.

Cain was older than his brother Abel. When they grew up, they wanted to give praise to God, and each gave an offering of what they thought would be pleasing to Him.



Cain offered grain on his altar to the Lord, and Abel offered a precious lamb from his flock. God was pleased with Abel's offering, because a lamb is a living creature. The shed blood of the lamb pictured the offering of life—the great gift from God. God did not accept Cain's offering, because grain does not picture life.

Which would you think is more valuable as a sacrifice—  
a bowl of grain which grows in abundance  
or a living breathing creature?



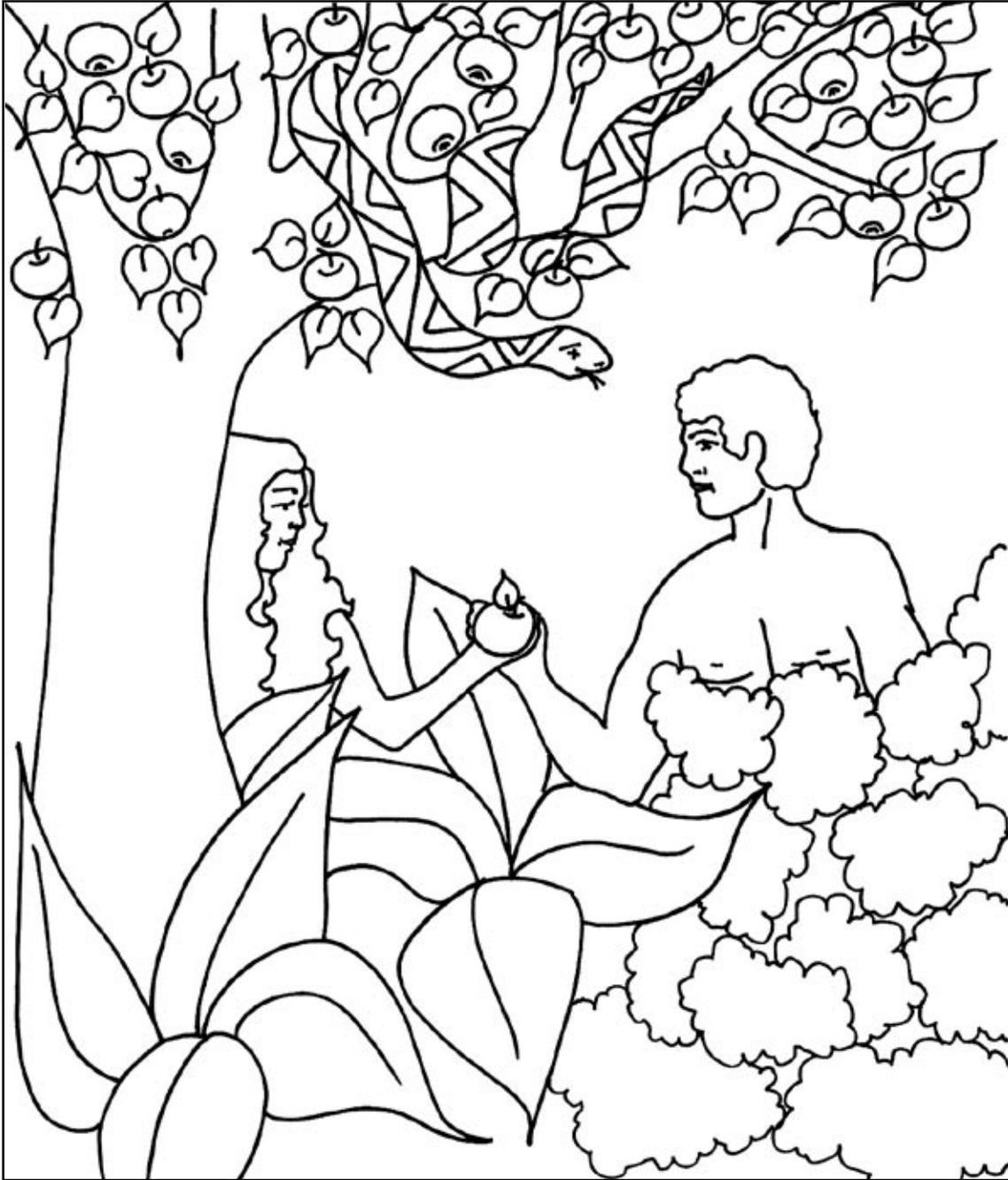
Yes, life is a precious gift from *God* to all His creatures. The lamb which Abel offered was acceptable, because the shed blood pictured life—*God's* gift. Abel truly understood what a blessing life was, and so, he offered one of the most precious things he possessed to give *God* in return.



Now we come to one of the most important questions of all—  
why did Jesus have to die as a sacrifice to God?  
Couldn't he have just given God a lamb like Abel did?



To understand why Jesus had to sacrifice his life and die, it is important to know that Jesus was offering his life as an exchange for the life that Adam lost when he sinned. Adam was a perfect man, but because he disobeyed God, he lost his perfect life and began to die. God warned him that the penalty for sin would be death.



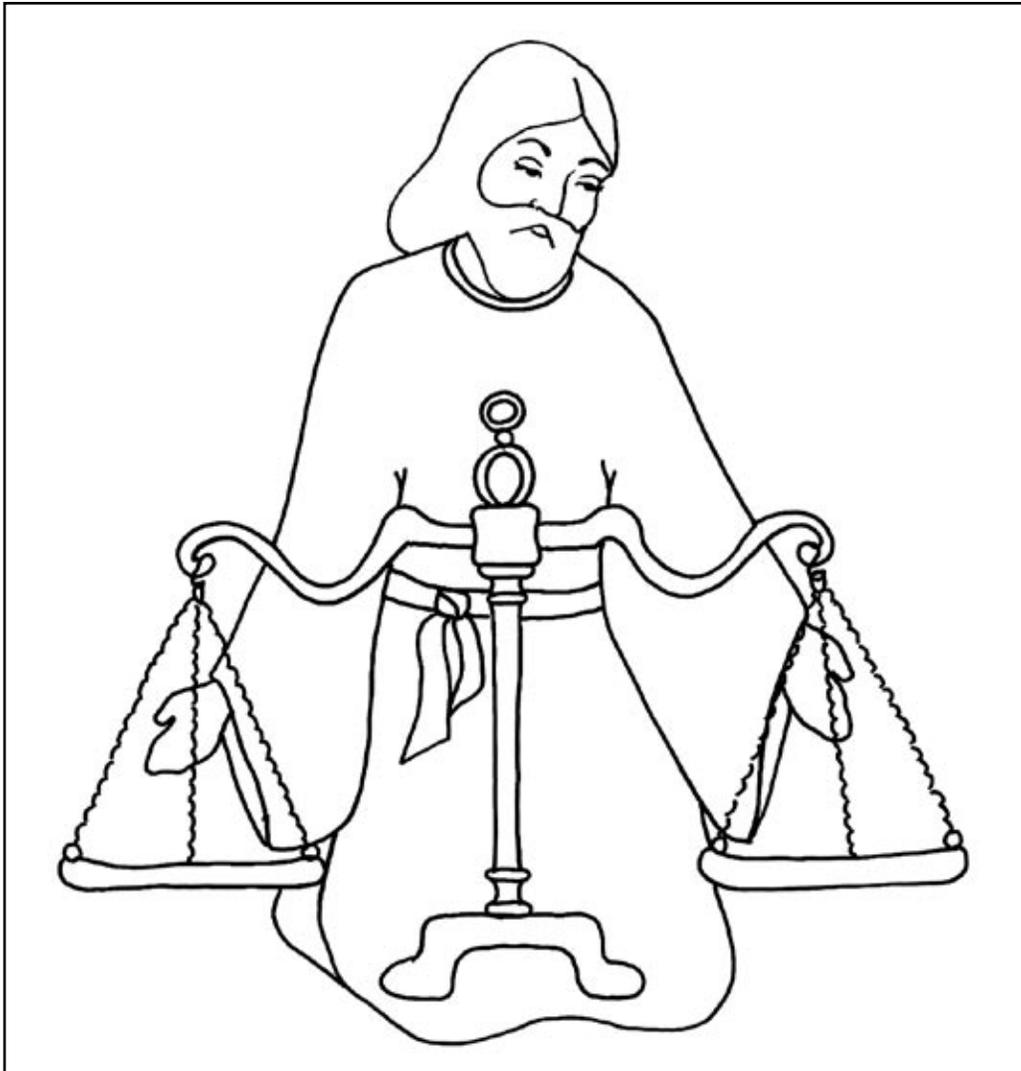
**"Of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden. . . Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." Genesis 3:3**

Because Adam became imperfect the moment he sinned, then all of his children, grand children, great grand children – everyone would be born imperfect and would die. Things could just keep going on and on – people could just keep being born imperfect, live for a few years and then die, but God knew that the longer this went on, the more sinful and weak mankind would become. God also knew that, once mankind had experience with sin, pain and death, they would be very happy to have the chance to live in a world where sin was no longer permitted and where they would have the opportunity to learn righteousness.



**“And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: and the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” Isaiah 35:8-10**

And so, in God's wisdom, He proved a plan where the perfect life of Jesus would take the place of the imperfect life of Adam. Jesus would pay the death penalty that was placed upon Adam when he sinned. This is what the word **ransom** means—a life for a life. In this case, the perfect human life (Christ) paid for the perfect human life lost (Adam). Just like the scales used to weigh gold, the weight has to be equal for them to balance exactly.



**"...by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men... so by the obedience of one [Jesus] shall many be made righteous.." See Romans 5:12-21**  
**"For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." — 1 Corinthians 15:21-22**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." – 1 Timothy 2:3-6**

1. Why do men all die? Romans 5:19
2. Adam and Jesus were both (2 answers are correct)
  - a. lambs
  - b. perfect
  - c. angels
  - d. men
3. Why was God pleased with both Jesus' & Abel's sacrifice?  
(1 answer is correct)
  - a. both were preachers
  - b. both were sheep farmers
  - c. both shed blood which pictures life
  - d. both lived in the desert
4. Life is in the \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_. Without it we could not live.  
Review these Scriptures: Leviticus 17:11; Romans 3:25; Ephesians 1:7
5. Why is God our Savior, too? John 3:16
6. What is a ransom?
  - a. a nice parable?
  - b. a person who ran somewhere fast?
  - c. a payment for something that is of the same value?
  - d. money to buy things with?
7. God has four perfect attributes. Which of these four provided for the ransom?
  - a. Wisdom?
  - b. Justice?
  - c. Love?
  - d. Power?
  - e. All of the above?
8. A perfect life for a perfect life is seen in which of these four attributes?
9. Jesus gave his life a long time ago. Has the ransom been paid yet?
10. Jesus died for one sin or many sins?
11. Is Jesus' Ransom for just you and me?
12. What is the "highway of holiness and who will walk upon it?"
13. Will it be hard to walk on this "highway," and if not, why?

## The Beautiful Golden Watch

One day while walking home from school, a young boy saw something glistening in the weeds along the side of the country road. There, sticking out of the mud was a metal box. When he opened it, he found a beautiful golden pocket watch. The little boy was poor and his family could never afford to buy him such a valuable watch. "This was the best thing I've ever found!" he exclaimed. He couldn't wait to get home to tell his parents about his special treasure!

His parents were so happy for him, but reminded him that he must first check to see if anyone had lost the watch. So, that day, he asked the local postman if he had heard if anyone had lost a golden watch, but the postman had not heard of a single person. The little boy also asked the local policeman, and he had not heard of a single person either. The policeman said, I will hold it for you here, and if no one has claimed it in thirty days, the watch will belong to you.

Three weeks passed, and each day, the little boy grew more fond of the watch. He had asked the antique merchant down the street what a watch like this would be worth, and he said about four hundred dollars! "How I love this watch," he said to himself. "Oh, I hope I get to keep it."

On the thirtieth day, the little boy ran to the police station to see if anyone had claimed the watch. "No, young man, it is yours," said the policeman. "Yippee!!!" said the little boy, as he flew out the door to run home and tell his parents. "It's mine! It's really mine!!!"

When he got home, the little boy saw his mother holding her head in her hands and crying. The look on his father's face was so sad. "What's wrong?" he asked. "We had to take Cubby in to the vet because he is very sick," said his father, "The doctor said that if he doesn't have an operation, he will die, but we can't afford such an expensive operation."

Oh, no, Cubby! My little puppy! I love him so much. The little boy looked down upon his beautiful gold watch. "How much will the operation cost, dad?" "Four hundred dollars," said his father.

Now what do you suppose the little boy did?

If the little boy kept his beautiful watch, Cubby would die. But, if he gave the watch to the veterinarian in an even exchange for the cost of the operation, Cubby would live. You finish the story...



Sometimes things which we hold dear to us become less important when compared to the importance of the life of someone we love. Even though Jesus valued his life—a precious gift from God—he knew that exchanging it for the life of Adam would provide a way out of death for not only Adam, but the entire world of mankind. God loved mankind so much that He was willing to give His only begotten Son as a ransom—an even exchange for the father of the human race—Adam. In the Kingdom, Adam and all of his family will have an opportunity for a fresh start to learn righteousness on the “highway of holiness.”