

Ransom for Many

It seems that every month we hear about hackers seizing control of an individual's or company's computer, and demanding payment of a ransom to restore it. In April 2021, a large pipeline company paid over four million dollars to regain control of their system. Their pipeline is the largest in the United States, extending from the Gulf of Mexico to the Northeast. Hackers had stolen a password to gain access to the system. In response, the company shut down the entire pipeline, creating a severe gas shortage for over half the nation's population. If people could get gasoline, they had to pay a premium until the ransom was paid and operations were restored.



The word “ransom” often appears in the Bible. One of the most familiar verses reads: *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).*

"Ransom" is from the Greek root word *lutron* and refers in the Bible to the price paid to redeem a slave or captive (Leviticus 25:51–52) or a firstborn (Numbers 18:15), or recompense for a crime (Numbers 35:31–32) or injury (Exodus 21:30). The words “redeem” and “ransom” are used interchangeably. In the Bible, it is the price to be paid for the restoration of a relationship with God.

In Mark 10:45 the disciples had been arguing who was the most important in their group and lobbying for a position on Jesus' left and right in Heaven (read Mark 10:35-37). Jesus' response to them was about being humble and a servant. He said, *Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all (Mark 10:43-44).* Jesus told them that He is a servant to all, and in humble obedience, He was preparing to give His life on the cross for us. He was the ransom payment.

There is no secret password to steal in our relationship with God. The name of Jesus Christ is above every other name. The devil knows that too, and if we humbly accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, the devil is powerless in his attempt to turn us away from God.

Our debt has been paid for us by Jesus on the cross. Jesus was the ransom to redeem us, and all believers. He died for us on the cross, setting us free from the sinful nature that would otherwise separate us from God.

The oil is freely flowing in the pipeline, as is the love of Jesus for us. There is no shortage of God's love and Grace for us. The price has been paid. You have been redeemed. You are free. Thanks be to God!

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord. You came to live among us, serve humbly, and to die for our sins, so we would be free. We accept and honor you as our Lord and Savior, and we dedicate our lives to serving You by serving others. Amen.