

As we followed Jesus, we were constantly amazed at how He dealt with His adversaries. He was the Gentle Shepherd<sup>1</sup>, but one of the most aggressive actions that He took during his short ministry was to cleanse the temple of those who were robbing those who pledged themselves to worship God<sup>2</sup>. These robbers were guilty of worshipping money rather than the Great Creator, and thought that they could buy their way to a better life on earth. In this very intimidating act, Jesus was removing from the worship area those who were essentially buying the blood of the sacrifices – at exorbitant prices!

Later, as we regularly participated in the supper of the Lord, I saw that we were somewhat like the pilgrims who had come to the temple (now Christ) to worship. But we did not need to buy our sacrifice. It was freely offered for us.

Some might think of the blood that Christ shed as a limited physical quantity. But its amazing spiritual effectiveness expands<sup>3</sup> to cover the complete population<sup>4</sup> of the Kingdom of God. It is not something that we actually obtain or possess – I don't have more than you, nor can I obtain more than you<sup>5</sup>, nor do I need more than you. No matter how much we have sinned, if we are washed in that blood then we are saved, and we must feel no sense of superiority. Jesus' blood is not a commodity that can be bought or sold as like some might like to do.<sup>6</sup> It's not the amount of blood that is critical – it is the power that resides in the divine sacrifice of God's Son. And it completely covers us.

1. See Matthew 11:29 and John 10:11.
2. Mark 11:15-17.
3. Consider how God creates great things out of little (or even nothing); He (through Christ) expanded the food resources by multiplying the loaves and fishes (Matthew 14:13ff, Mark 6:30ff, Luke 9:10ff, John 6:1ff).
4. Likely numbering into the billions... Are we covered because we are so small? Or because Christ's blood is so powerful and effective?
5. Look at the parable of the workers in the vineyard (Matthew 10:1ff); those who were there earlier thought that they deserved more. It is not like that in the Kingdom of God, where grace is essentially binary – you are saved or you are not saved. Those who have been Christians longer do not have a greater measure of grace. We all get full coverage no matter how great our sins are!  
Also, think about the instance when Simon the Sorcerer offered to buy the Spirit as though it was a commodity (Acts 8:9-24).