

Bluestone and Red Blood

Scripture: Luke 19:39 – 40 and Isaiah 1:15 - 20

Sunday after Easter 2024

One of our scripture reading for today is from Luke's Gospel and it comes from the much larger story of Palm Sunday. A very joyous day for Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees order Jesus to make the people stop shouting praises toward Jesus. And Jesus answers them – 'I tell you, if the people were silent, the stones would shout out!'

How can stones shout? Bluestone is a fascinating variety of rock. When you strike bluestone, it will ring with a musical tone! Bluestone is a musical rock!

A Welsh village whose name means 'bell' or 'ringing stones' used bluestone to make their church bells until the 18th century. Bells made from stone – what will they think of next!

Has anyone ever been to Stonehenge in England?

(Pause and let them share about their trip)

Stonehenge was built as a place of sun worship. It was constructed from 3000 to 1000 BC as an astronomy observatory and Temple. It was an ancient religious site and an expression of the power and wealth of the aristocrats and priests in the day. Many of these people are buried in numerous barrows nearby.

What kind of rock is Stonehenge built with – BLUESTONE!

The ruins of Stonehenge are built of bluestone causing some to wonder if the landmark's original purpose was musical. Some researchers claim that the bluestone at Stonehenge was brought from nearly 200 miles away because of their unique acoustic properties.

Musical ringing stones are yet another of the wonders of God's great creation. They remind us of what Jesus said that first Palm Sunday as he entered Jerusalem triumphantly. Jesus said the stone would cry out.

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Jesus is worthy of all worship! May the Holy Spirit stir us to give Jesus the honor he deserves. May all creation praise Jesus Christ!

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The color 'red' does not always naturally occur in the things we make. So, how do you put the vibrant color of red like an apple into a t-shirt or lipstick?

In early times, the red pigment was made from clay or red rocks. In the 1400's, the Aztecs invented a way of using insects to make a red dye. Today, those same tiny insects supply the world with red!

In the Bible, red denotes royalty. It also signifies sin and shame. Further, red is the color of blood. When the soldiers stripped Jesus and put a scarlet robe on Jesus, these three symbolisms merged into one heartbreaking images of red.

Jesus was ridiculed as a would-be royalty. He was cloaked in shame and he was robed in the color of the blood he would soon shed.

But the words of Isaiah foretell the promise of this crimsoned Jesus to deliver us from the red that stains us. Isaiah said – *‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.’*

One other thing about those insects used to make red dye – they are actually milky white on the outside. Only when they are crushed do they release their red blood. That little fact echoes for us other words from Isaiah – *‘He was crushed for our iniquities.’*

Jesus, who knew no sin, is here to save us. Jesus is here to save us who are red with sin. You see, in Jesus’ crushing death, he endured a whole lot of red so we could be white as snow.

Jesus, who knew no sin, is here to save you. Jesus is here to save you who are red with sin. You see, in Jesus’ crushing death, he endured a whole lot of red so you could be white as snow.

Let us pray:

Creator God, you are deserving of all our worship, all our praise, and all of our gratitude. When our hearts grow hard and we lose sight of your worthiness, remind us that all creation sings your praise like bluestone makes it musical sounds.

Dear God, thank you for your Son, Jesus, and for your saving grace of Jesus’ shed blood. AMEN.