

April 1, 2018

## Why Jesus Died Isaiah 53:3-6

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Was it really \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus to be crucified? Jesus suffered and was crucified, and today we'll see \_\_\_\_\_. We're here to \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures for God's will. The Scriptures \_\_\_\_\_ us about God, His love for us, and His provisions for our salvation. If God had not \_\_\_\_\_ us His Word, we wouldn't know about His mercy and grace. We wouldn't know to what great lengths He's gone to demonstrate His love and to \_\_\_\_\_ our hearts.

What is the dominating \_\_\_\_\_ in your life? What motivates you? When you have to make life choices, what \_\_\_\_\_ thing becomes the most important in your decisions? You might say all kinds of things: career or family, a hobby, or perhaps a bucket list of things to do. The apostle Paul answered that question, "For I determined to know \_\_\_\_\_ among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2). That was his dominating \_\_\_\_\_ in life, preaching Christ and Him crucified. He never wanted to get away from the cross of Christ.

I can understand why. The cross is what \_\_\_\_\_ us to Jesus Christ. Jesus is the one who loves us, who forgives us, and who gives us \_\_\_\_\_ life! The world is beautiful, but it's filled with mixed messages that may distract us from an eternity with God. **Read 1 John 2:15-17.**

### **Our reading today comes from the prophet Isaiah 53:3-6.**

You can find the details of the suffering of Jesus Christ on the cross in all \_\_\_\_\_ gospel accounts: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The preaching of the cross dominates the book of Acts and permeates the epistles. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the most important \_\_\_\_\_ of all history. All that came before His death and resurrection \_\_\_\_\_ to it, and all that follows His death and resurrection makes \_\_\_\_\_ because of it. It is no wonder Paul said, "For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2).

The Scriptures give more than 50 \_\_\_\_\_ why Jesus bore the cross. I want to explore five reasons why He died. First, Jesus suffered on the cross to demonstrate His great \_\_\_\_\_ for us. **Read what Romans 5:6-10 explains.** This is an amazingly kind love, a graciously forgiving love, and a deeply committed love. There are four adjectives used in this passage that describe the spiritual condition of humanity and reveal the greatness of His demonstrated love.

First, humanity is spiritually helpless or \_\_\_\_\_, incapable of saving itself by itself. We needed the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Humanity without the Lord Jesus cannot find salvation or gain eternal life. The Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the helpless who desperately needed him.

Second, humanity was helpless and ungodly. An ungodly person is irreverent and has no respect or \_\_\_\_\_ of God. An ungodly person may not think about God at all. Consequently, he

lives on his own terms, never caring whether God is pleased and often acting against God. God loved you, even when you never gave Him a second thought, even before you knew He existed.

Third, a helpless and ungodly humanity is made up of \_\_\_\_\_. Sinners have \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with God at all. They weren't interested in keeping God's \_\_\_\_\_; and as a result, they were outsiders without God and without hope.

Fourth, because they were helpless, ungodly, and sinners, they were also \_\_\_\_\_ of God and hostile to Him. According to James 4:4, befriending the world makes one an enemy of God. When a person chooses to follow the ways of the world and ignore the teaching of God, God \_\_\_\_\_ that person as hostile.

Neither the Father nor the Son was content to \_\_\_\_\_ people in a condition of being hostile enemies. They wanted them to be \_\_\_\_\_ and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:3-4). They loved people \_\_\_\_\_ of their thoughtless and hostile ways. The Lord Jesus said, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself" (John 12:32). His incredible love shown on the cross \_\_\_\_\_ people. If He was willing to make this great \_\_\_\_\_ for you and me, how could we not love Him? Jesus suffered on the cross to show the \_\_\_\_\_ of His love for us. The world thinks little of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. They have \_\_\_\_\_ the great price that He paid. Does it matter to you? No one has ever loved you to the extent that Jesus loved you.

Second, Jesus suffered on the cross to \_\_\_\_\_ for our sins. The word "atone" is actually an old word made up of two small words, the word "at" and the word "one." Jesus died so that we could be at one or \_\_\_\_\_ with the God, the Father. John said, "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (one). (And) He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the \_\_\_\_\_ world" (1 John 2:1-2).

The word "propitiation" refers to Jesus as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. His sacrifice made it possible for us to be "one" with the Father, to be in a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship and in His grace and favor. Sin had spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ us from God and caused us to be people who were against God. In order to \_\_\_\_\_ a right relationship with God, Jesus had to pay the penalty for our sins. He was the righteous One dying for the unrighteous. **Read Isaiah 53:5-6.** Jesus suffered the cross to bear our sins, so that He could \_\_\_\_\_ us to God. That is what propitiation is all about.

Second Corinthians 5:19-21 reminds us: "in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." Forgiveness means that God was no longer \_\_\_\_\_ our trespasses against us. Jesus suffered for us, so God could \_\_\_\_\_ us. This opened the door to reconciliation, making friends again with God.

First Peter 3:18 says, “For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might \_\_\_\_\_ us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.” Even though sin placed us far away from God, the blood of Jesus allowed us to be brought \_\_\_\_\_. Even though we were \_\_\_\_\_ to the covenant of promise outside of Christ, the blood of Jesus allowed us to become fellow citizens with the saints in God’s kingdom and members of the household of God (Ephesians 2:19). Because of Jesus, we can become sons and daughters in God’s family!

Third, Jesus suffered on the cross in order to be an \_\_\_\_\_ of obedience to His Father and as an \_\_\_\_\_ of obedience to us. **Read Hebrews 5:7-9.** When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before He was crucified, He spent three hours in \_\_\_\_\_. He knew the Father’s will that He \_\_\_\_\_ many things and be crucified, and that is a most painful death. He was troubled and sorrowful to the point of death. He fell on his face and He prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will” (Matthew 26:39). Jesus chose to \_\_\_\_\_ and suffer out of love for the Father and for us.

Paul used this example of love and obedience to \_\_\_\_\_ the church at Philippi. He said, “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a \_\_\_\_\_, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming \_\_\_\_\_ to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:5-8). Just as Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient, so we are to be obedient. Jesus is the author of eternal salvation to those who \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

Fourth, Jesus suffered the cross to be a \_\_\_\_\_ for many. In ancient times when people were enslaved, kidnapped, or captured in war, they would live very \_\_\_\_\_ lives. Someone who loved them often paid a ransom to \_\_\_\_\_ them. The Lord Jesus said about Himself, “the Son of Man came not to be served but to \_\_\_\_\_, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). He came to ransom us from enslavement to \_\_\_\_\_. Peter explained, “knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you” (1 Peter 1:18-20).

Jesus could have instantly manufactured all the gold or silver that He wanted with just a word, just as He multiplied the loaves and the fishes. But gold and silver was no cost to Jesus. No, He paid the dearest price that He could pay. He paid with His life and with His blood. Your ransom price was not \_\_\_\_\_! Paul wrote, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your \_\_\_\_\_? For you have been bought with a price: and therefore glorify God in your \_\_\_\_\_” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Have you considered what a great \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord Jesus paid for your salvation?

Fifth, Jesus suffered on the cross to \_\_\_\_\_ us spiritually. God didn’t merely want to forgive

us. He wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ our lives, to make us righteous, so that we could become like His Son, Jesus. First Peter 2:24 says, “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might \_\_\_\_\_ to sin and \_\_\_\_\_ to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.” Healing in this passage is not physical healing but \_\_\_\_\_, and each of us need healing spiritually. For a long time, I’ve believed what is most \_\_\_\_\_ by Christians today is a very long look at the cross. If we’re ever to heal spiritually as individuals, as families, as a church, or as a country, we must come to the \_\_\_\_\_ and obey the will of God.

The way of Jesus is abundant. The Lord Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have \_\_\_\_\_ and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). The Christian life truly is abundant; it is truly the \_\_\_\_\_ way to live. Galatians 5:22-23 says, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” The way of Christ lifts men up, makes them \_\_\_\_\_, and blesses all of society. Without Christ, this world is harsh and chaotic, confused, a place filled with the worst that man has to offer, but with Christ, we have \_\_\_\_\_ of something better. Galatians 1:4 says Jesus “gave himself for our sins to \_\_\_\_\_ us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.” When you look at all the sinfulness in the world, you must admit we \_\_\_\_\_ the salvation that Christ provides. We need His love, grace, forgiveness, and hope. Without Christ, this world would be a sad, sad, sad place indeed!

One cannot look long at the cross and remain \_\_\_\_\_. The cross reveals the \_\_\_\_\_ of men and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. I’m amazed at how far selfish, sinful men will go to preserve their \_\_\_\_\_. I grieve at how \_\_\_\_\_ people can be, and how they can do horrible things to others. The cross reveals man at his worst, condemning an innocent man. Yes, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the worst that men could do to Him, while He did what was best to bless them.

The cross \_\_\_\_\_ us that sin is real and it matters to God. God hated what sin does to people enough to send His Son to \_\_\_\_\_ the works of the devil. Jesus revealed the ugliness of \_\_\_\_\_. The cross also speaks to the ugliness of my sin and yours. The Lord laid upon Him, that is Jesus, your sins and mine. Jesus paid the ransom price for us. First Corinthians 6:20 says, “You are not your own, for you were bought with a \_\_\_\_\_. So glorify God in your body.” We must understand: I don’t belong to me anymore, and you don’t belong to you. We belong to the \_\_\_\_\_.

The blessing of Christ’s sacrifice comes to those who \_\_\_\_\_ Him. Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hebrews 11:6 says, “And without \_\_\_\_\_ it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” Second, turn from sin to righteousness; this is \_\_\_\_\_. Luke 13:3 says unless you repent, you will perish. Third, confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Fourth, be \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ Jesus and into His death, so that your sins will be done away with! When you’re crucified with Christ in baptism, you’re no longer a slave to sin. You’re redeemed and a child of God (Romans 6 and Galatians 3). So, my friend be obedient today!