

THE PRICE JESUS PAID FOR US

Text: 1 Corinthians 6:20

INTRO: In our preaching & our singing many references are made to the crucifixion of Jesus. The Bible teaches that the death of Jesus was necessary as a sacrifice for our sins--the crucifixion was involved in the price of redemption. Let us look at the real price of our salvation.

I. JESUS KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING OF HIS MINISTRY THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR HIM TO DIE AS A SACRIFICE.

Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe & who would betray Him. (JN 6:64).

A. On His first arrival in Jerusalem after beginning His ministry, He foretold in figurative language His upcoming death. READ JOHN 2:18-21.

B. A year or more before the close of His ministry, He began to speak in literal terms of His approaching death.

From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples

that He must go to Jerusalem & suffer many things from the elders & chief priests & scribes, & be killed, & be raised the 3rd day. (Matt 16:21).

C. Jesus knew the exact nature of the death He faced.
John 3:14; 12:32-33; 8:28

II. JESUS HAD THE POWER TO ESTABLISH THE KIND OF KINGDOM THE JEWS WANTED--BUT SUCH WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE.

A. At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, Satan was ready to help Him establish a worldly political kingdom, LK 4:5-7.

B. The Jewish multitudes tried to force Jesus to become an earthly king.

Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come & take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. (John 6:15).

C. As He entered Jerusalem 5 days before His death, He tried again to make them realize that their view of His kingdom was erroneous. READ LUKE 19:11-12.

D. As He stood before Pilate, He emphasized that His kingdom was not earthly, John 18:36.

III. JESUS HAD THE POWER TO AVOID THE CROSS--BUT HE ALSO HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ENDURE IT.

READ JOHN 10:17-18; 19:10-11

READ MATTHEW 26:53-54 Note: Legion=5,000

IV. JESUS SUFFERED THE AGONY & ANGUISH OF GETHSEMANE. READ LUKE 22:39-46.

V. AS HE LEFT GETHSEMANE HE WAS ARRESTED. HE WAS HASTILY TRIED DURING THE NIGHT & DELIVERED TO PILATE SHORTLY AFTER DAWN. IN AN ATTEMPT TO COMPROMISE WITH THE JEWS, PILATE ORDERED JESUS TO BE SCOURGED, John 19:1-6.

"Among the Romans either rods were used or whips, the thongs of which were weighted with jagged pieces of bone or metal to make the blow more effective... It was used to wrest confessions & secrets from its victim." (New Compact Bible Dict.) It is said that prisoners often died from the scourging before they could be crucified.

VI. AFTER HIS SCOURGING, JESUS WAS SO WEAK THE ROMANS HAD TO COMPEL A STRANGER TO CARRY HIS CROSS TO CALVARY, Mark 15:21. (JN 19:17)

Now it was the 3rd hour & they crucified Him. (MK 15:25).

"The one condemned to crucifixion was first scourged. with a whip with several leather thongs the ends of which were tipped with lead balls or sheep bones. Then the near naked victim was forced to carry the heavy crossbar of his cross to the place of his death. At Golgotha the soldiers would have flung Jesus to the ground & stretched His arms upon the crossbar for size. The executioner would take a square spike about 1/3 of an inch thick at its head & drive it with a single blow into the victim's hand. Usually it tore thru the median nerve. The feet were nailed in order to give the victim a cruel 'step' to support himself so he could breathe. Otherwise the sagging body hanging on its arms went into a tetanic spasm which prevented exhalation. As the hours wore on, the body became soaked with perspiration, thirst became intense, & pain & shock were tremendous." --Wycliffe Bible Encly.

Mark 15:34 shows Jesus died after 6 hours on the cross.

VII. BUT ALL THESE FACTS SIMPLY PRESENT THE BACKGROUND FOR US TO BE MADE AWARE OF THE REAL PRICE JESUS PAID. FOR US HE BORE THE JUDICIAL WRATH OF GOD. FOR THOSE 6 HOURS ON CALVARY, HE GAVE UP HIS FELLOWSHIP WITH HIS FATHER SO WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO DO SO ETERNALLY.

READ ISAIAH 53:4-6, 11-12

And at the 9th hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice & said...
"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
(MK 15:34).

[God] made [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor 5:21).

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us... (Gal 3:13).

CONCLUSION: Jesus spent His whole life facing death. For us, He underwent the agony of Gethsemane, the pain of scourging, the indescribable suffering of the cross--but the greatest price of all was the spiritual price He paid as He bore our sins, took upon Himself the

alienation from God that our sins demanded, so we could have the fellowship with God that rightly belonged to Him.

1. Jesus loved us so much He was willing to die for us--even spiritual death.
2. God loved us enough to accept the death of Jesus as a substitute for our debt.
3. But we can benefit from Christ's sacrifice only by willingly submitting to Him who bought us with so great a price. God wills to save us--but He will not do so against our own will.

La Porte, TX, February 3, 1980

Exton, PA, November 1, 1987

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, February 7, 1993

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, June 23, 1996