

**Week of April 1, 2012**  
***Jesus Died for Our Sins***

**Passage Outline:**

1. **Jesus' Death Brought Forgiveness of Sins** (Matt. 26:26-29)
2. **Jesus' Death Fulfilled God's Plan** (Matt. 26:36-39)
3. **Jesus' Death Revealed He Was God's Son** (Matt. 27:45-46, 50-52, 54)

**What's This Lesson About?**

It's about Jesus' death on the cross and why He had to die.

**How Can This Impact Your Life?**

Jesus was not forced to die, but chose to die. Do you know why?

**1. Jesus' Death Brought Forgiveness of Sins - Matthew 26:26-29**

**Matthew 26:26-29**

<sup>26</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." <sup>27</sup> Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup> This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

- A. As Jesus led the celebration of Passover with His disciples, He reinterpreted the supper as the new covenant He would establish with His followers.
- B. Taking the bread, Jesus blessed and broke it, and then said, "This is My Body," changing Passover forever.
- C. Jesus does not say "this is LIKE My Body," or "This REPRESENTS My Body," but "this IS My Body." While we cannot understand how this can be, nevertheless, since Jesus said it and He can do all things, we simply accept in faith that this bread is what Jesus said it is.
- D. As Jesus broke the bread, so His body would be torn through the scourging and crucifixion He would endure, before and while on the cross.
- E. Like the lamb of the Old Testament that had to die so the firstborn of the Israelites could live, Jesus' body had to endure the pain of crucifixion and finally death so that we could live.
- F. Then, Jesus took the cup and gave thanks for it. This probably was the third of four cups the Jews drank during the celebration. Jesus would not drink the fourth cup until He returned at the end of the world (Matt. 26:29).
- G. Jesus encouraged all to drink from the cup and explained that His blood was in the cup and would establish the covenant. Much like the blood of Passover, Jesus' blood protects us from the eternal Death Angel, bringing forgiveness of sin and life eternal.
- H. But only those who trust in Jesus experienced the benefits of His death. Forgiveness of sins is available to all, but not all will avail themselves to it. Only as we trust in Christ's death do we receive the forgiveness Christ obtained for us.

If you have not already done so, please read the article "***Background of Jesus' Covenant***" contained in

your preparation packet.

- I. Jesus' promise to not drink again from the fruit of the vine until He drank it anew in My Father's Kingdom looked ahead to the banquet feast in Heaven.
  - i. Refusing to drink the fourth and final cup of the Passover meal, Jesus is saying that forgiveness is now available, but the final establishment of His kingdom would await a date later in the future.
  - ii. The Bible does not say there will be beer in Heaven, but it does say there will be wine in Heaven.

**What Do You Feel while Receiving the Lord's Supper?**

Recall the last time you took the Lord's Supper. What went through your mind as you held the bread and the cup? Circle the emotions you most often equate with celebrating the Lord's Supper.

Joy    Thankfulness    Sorrow    Repentance    Awe    Humility    Peace    Unworthiness

## **2. Jesus' Death Fulfilled God's Plan - Matthew 26:36-39**

### **Matthew 26:36-39**

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup> He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." <sup>39</sup> Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

- A. After the last supper, He took His disciples to a garden called Gethsemane, a name meaning "olive press." As one would press the olives in an olive press, Jesus would be pressed by His impending suffering and death on the cross.

If you have not already done so, please read the article "*A Description of Gethsemane*" contained in your preparation packet.

- B. Jesus took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee (James and John) with Him a little farther into the garden, desiring their presence and comfort.
- C. Matthew described Jesus as sorrowful and deeply distressed. The English words hardly convey the depth of what Jesus felt. Jesus described Himself as being "swallowed up in sorrow—to the point of death." In fact Luke recorded that Jesus' anguish was so great that "His sweat became like drops of blood" from His grief (Luke 22:44).
- D. What caused such anguish? Like you and me, Jesus had no desire to be tortured and publicly humiliated. The physical pain alone would make most people avoid the cross at all cost.
- E. So Jesus prayed, "If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me." The cup here was the cup of physical suffering and death (as in Isaiah 51:22; Jeremiah. 25:15-16; Ezekiel 23:31-34).
- F. Was there no other way to save sinful humanity than through the cross? Jesus' commitment to go ahead with the cross implies there was no other way.

- G. Thankfully, Jesus submitted Himself to God’s plan no matter what it cost Him saying, “Yet not as I will, but as You will.” Despite personal physical, emotional, and spiritual turmoil the cross caused Jesus, He chose obedience to God’s plan so their sins could be forgiven. God’s plan is not always easy, but it is always best for us to submit to His plan.
- H. Jesus had asked the three disciples to “remain here and stay awake with Me.” Jesus needed and wanted the support and encouragement these three men could have provided. Unfortunately, they let Jesus down.
- I. Jesus retreated even farther into the garden to pray that God would remove the cup of suffering. It is okay to be honest with God in prayer and express the true desires of our hearts to God. He is not offended when we come to Him honestly—He knows what we are thinking anyway!
- J. Jesus expressed the desire of His humanity, but He submitted Himself to the will of God.

### Submit or Resist?

Think of a time in your spiritual walk when you knew God’s will for you, but found it difficult to submit to that will. Did you eventually yield, or did you resist? Would you be willing to be vulnerable and share that story so that we all might benefit by it?

### 3. Jesus’ Death Revealed He Was God’s Son - Matthew 27:45-46, 50-52, 54

#### Matthew 27:45-46, 50-54

<sup>45</sup> From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. <sup>46</sup> About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*”—which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”.... <sup>50</sup> And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. <sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. <sup>52</sup> The tombs broke open ... <sup>54</sup> When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

- A. At noon, darkness descended upon the whole land. This was not a sirocco (desert wind storm) or a solar eclipse. Neither of these would have come cost to the darkness described by Matthew.
- B. Why the darkness? The Father had withdrawn His presence from His own Son, who, thought He had done no wrong, now was bearing in His body the world’s sin.
- C. This is why Jesus cried out, “*Elí, Elí, lemá sabachtháni?*” Matthew provided the translation —“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Jesus quoted these words from Psalm 22:1. Sin caused the Father to abandon His Son as He hung on the cross.
- D. Jesus had to suffer all that we deserved because of our sin, which also included the suffering in hell. So, when did Jesus suffer hell? Before He died or after He died? Most will answer after He died, but that would be incorrect.
- E. When Jesus finished paying the debt of sin He said, “It is Finished.” But if Jesus had more suffering to endure in hell, then Jesus lied.
- F. Jesus descent into hell, as we confess in the Apostles’ Creed was NOT for suffering but as 1 Peter 3:18-19 says Jesus went to hell not to suffer but “to proclaim victory” over Satan’s kingdom.

- G. So, when did Jesus suffer hell? Right here while on the cross. The best definition I know of for hell is “the total abandonment of God.” When Jesus is totally forsaken by God, He is in hell.
- H. Normal crucifixion could take as much as 48 hours. Jesus was dead after only six hours. Why? Large doses of sin kill quickly.
- I. Jesus gave up His spirit and died. Even in death, Jesus was still in control of His own life.
- J. The curtain in the temple was torn in half from top to bottom.
  - i. What curtain was this? It was the one that divided the holy of holies from the holy place in the temple.
  - ii. Why was this important? Until that time, a veil had always divided God’s presence from mankind. However, with Jesus’ death, everyone now had direct access to God.
  - iii. What was done behind the curtain? Once a year, only the high priest would go beyond the curtain into the holy of holies to deposit the blood of the lamb on the Ark of the Covenant. Now, Jesus deposits His own blood before God and with that perfect sacrifice there is no more separation between God and mankind.
  - iv. Why did the curtain tear from top to bottom? It first indicated that God had done the work and this tear was against the weave of the fabric.
- K. Then the earth began to shake, rocks split into pieces and tombs broke open. The fact that all this happen when Jesus died, caused the centurion to question the meaning of the events.
- L. These events verified the magnitude of Jesus’ death, and caused the Centurion to say, “He must have been the Son of God.

If you have not already done so, please read the article “*The Roman Centurion*” contained in your preparation packet.

### **Biblical Truths in Focus**

1. Jesus’ death fulfilled God’s plan to reach those who are lost in their sin.
2. As we trust that God dealt with our sin by placing it on Jesus at the cross, we receive forgiveness for our sins.
3. God has established a new covenant based on the blood of His Son rather than the blood of animals.
4. Jesus willingly gave up His life to fulfill God’s plan, as we must also sometimes sacrifice to do God’s will.
5. In light of the supernatural events surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus, God validated that Jesus was His Son.