



Sermon Series: It's All About Jesus

To be used with Session 4: The Death of Jesus

Sermon Title Possibilities: What Jesus Died For

Scripture: Luke 23:32-49

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study “It’s All About Jesus” this sermon shows how Jesus died to pay the debt for our sins. Through the years, people have proposed several reasons why Jesus died. Some have even suggested that it wasn’t Jesus on the cross who died outside of Jerusalem. Even His disciples didn’t fully understand His death when and immediately after it happened. However, the Scriptures make it clearly that Jesus died for our sins. To understand who Jesus is, we must understand that the cross is central to Jesus’s mission.

Introduction: Matthew wants the reader to know that Jesus is was a Descendant of David. Mark wants us to know that He is a Divine-Healer. John wants us to know that He is Deity, but Luke wants us to know that Jesus is Our Deliverer. His death was for our deliverance. He came to deliver us from sin, from Satan, and from separation from God. Without His death, we can’t bury our sins, beat our enemy, nor be with the Father on earth or in eternity. Thank God for the death of Jesus!

1. Jesus Died to Provide the Remission of Our Sins (v. 32-34)

Jesus was being crucified between two criminals. This was prophesied by Isaiah as he was telling us that our peace with God depends on the substitutionary sacrifice of the Suffering Servant (Isa. 53:1-12). The remission and forgiveness of our sins is only possible through the death of Jesus Christ (Col. 1:12-14; Luke 24:46-47). Forgiveness speaks of our sin-debt being cancelled and covered. Remission speaks of our sins and sin-debt being rolled away from our account (2 Cor. 5:21). Let us take refuge in the death of Christ for the remission of our sins.

2. Jesus Died to the Redemption for Our Souls (v. 35-43)

Notice how this passage shows how the mockers challenged Jesus to save himself. What they didn’t know is that He never came to save himself, He came to save us (Mark 10:43-45;

Lifeway

Luke 19:10). Mark tells us that He came to give His life as a ransom for many and Luke tells us that He came to seek and save the lost. Hallelujah for Jesus! Also, notice how the passage records how Jesus asks for the forgiveness of those who are crucifying Him. John records how Jesus said that God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but rather He sent Him so that the world could be saved through Him (John 3:17). The price for the ransom of our souls was the blood of Jesus. Thank God for the death of Jesus! Lastly, notice how Jesus promised the thief on the cross that he would be with Christ that day in paradise (v.43). The thief's body would be buried, but his soul and spirit would go to be with Christ. There it is. Because He died for us, when we die, we go to live with Him. Again, thank God for the death of Jesus!

3. Jesus Died to Provide a Route for Our Salvation (v. 44-49)

One line from this section that I want us to zero in on. The text says, "The curtain of the sanctuary was split down the middle." That refers to the veil of the temple behind which was the immediate presence of God. It was the holy of holies where the glory of God appeared—and only the High Priest could go into once a year. Jesus's death brought access to God for all who believe. When Christ died, that provided a way for any person who believes in Christ to have a saving and personal relationship with God the Father (John 14:6). This is good news. Thank God for the death of Jesus!

Conclusion: Two preachers were talking about the price of the suits that they were wearing. That had on matching suits. Both suits were three-piece Zennetti, navy blue, with paisley lining. The preacher from California said he paid \$1200 for his suit, and then asked the preacher from Memphis what he paid for his. The preacher from Memphis said, "you don't want to know." He kept pressing, and the preacher from Memphis said he bought from a store called K&G, where you get two suits for \$300. The Westcoast preacher was blown away and asked, "what do you think these suits are really worth?" The southern preacher said, "they are worth what you pay for them."¹ I want to say to you, you are worth the blood of Jesus, because that's what Jesus paid for your sins, your soul, and your salvation.

Author Bio

Reginald D. Taylor is a graduate of Crichton College, Union University, Capital Seminary, and is currently pursuing the Ph.D. degree at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the senior Pastor of The Rock Church and Assistant Professor/Director of Urban Theological Studies at MCUTS @ Union University in Memphis TN. He and his wife Dr. Tarra R. Taylor has one son—Reginald D. Taylor II—and three grandchildren Micah, Yara, and Aviyah.

¹ This story is taken from my own life during a revival meeting in Gardena California.