

The Cost of the Cross

Matthew 27:27-51

“And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split” - Matt. 26:38-39

Main Point: Jesus’ road to the resurrection continued from the Garden to the Cross. He was willing to pay the incredible price of our salvation because He believed we are worth it.

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

When have you been shopping and decided not to buy something when you saw the outrageous price?

What humiliation or mockery have you endured for the sake of a relationship? How did your sacrifice pay off?

Jesus mission to redeem mankind culminated on the cross. He was mocked, beaten, humiliated, and tortured before being crucified. But why would he endure such scorn? Why did the Son of God himself suffer the shame of the cross? Many would say he really wasn’t the Son. Some would say he failed in His mission or God was not pleased with Him. But when we look at the Bible in its totality we see a greater picture. One in which Jesus willingly gave himself up for us, shedding His blood in order to redeem our relationship with our Heavenly Father. In short, He chose us.

1) The first cost of the cross was **JESUS WAS HUMILIATED.** Read together in **Matt 27:27-31.**

Jesus was stripped and beaten as he took our sins upon himself. How have you seen sin strip away your life or the lives of others? What affect does it have on our relationship with God?

Many questioned Jesus authenticity, even the men he would eventually call disciples. Read **John 1:43-51** and see what Nathanael had to say. The soldiers mocked Jesus calling him “King of the Jews.” How did Nathanael get it right, but so many got it wrong?

The religious leaders and Romans saw Jesus’ teachings and claims of Sonship as completely backwards. Has there ever been a time you were mocked for your beliefs as a Christian? How did you respond in that situation?

2) The second cost is that **JESUS WAS DISHONORED.** Read together **Matt 27:32-44.**

Jesus was condemned unjustly by His own people. Read **John 3:17-18**. What did Jesus' condemnation mean for us?

Those dishonoring Jesus misconstrued what he said about rebuilding the temple in v.40. Read what Jesus said in **John 2:18-22**. What was Jesus foreshadowing here?

When have you dishonored Jesus by paying him lip service? How can we do a better job of talking the talk AND walking the walk, and what's the best way we can show our love for Him?

3) **The final cost of the cross is that JESUS WAS REJECTED BECAUSE OF OUR SIN**. Read together **Matt 27:45-51**

How have you faced rejection in life? How did you respond and what did you learn looking back?

Psalm 118:22 reminds us this was God's plan all along. What does this verse mean within the context of Jesus' road to the resurrection?

Jesus says "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" He was abandoned by His Father and their perfect communion was broken for the first time. Read **Isaiah 53:4-6**. Discuss why Jesus persisted through the pain of the cross.

The writer of Hebrews speaks of our "confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus." Read **Hebrews 10:19-23**. Jesus' rejection allowed us personal access to God Almighty and did away with the priesthood. What implications does this have on your daily life?

Pray:

Pray God would help you see the cross with fresh eyes this week. Pray for an understanding of what Jesus went through for our sake. Give thanks for the great sacrifice he took upon himself. Be grateful that he went willingly for your sake and pray for the forgiveness of your sins. You are no longer condemned...Hallelujah! Pray God would give you a boldness to stand up for His word despite humiliation and mockery.

Connect:

See this video based on Isaiah 53 depicting the humiliation, dishonor and rejection Jesus bore for our sins: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CGwJMPyqCw>