



July 20, Vacation Bible School Series

Jesus Saves Me

Jesus' sacrifice was both necessary and complete.

1. Important Background:

How does Jesus' atonement connect to the sacrifices in the Old Testament?

- The first sacrifice mentioned in the Bible was in Genesis 3. When Adam and Eve sinned, then realized they were naked, God gave them animal skins to cover themselves. God literally covered the effects of their sin- their nakedness.
- Adam and Eve's sin, and the perpetual sin of each human after, created distance between us and God. God's holiness does not allow him to be with sin (Lev 11:44 - Be holy for I am holy), and therefore, with us.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmvyrLXoQio>

(Day of Atonement is from 4:30-6:16)

Leviticus 17:11 ESV “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.”

Lev 16:30 “For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you. You shall be clean before the Lord from all your sins.”

Lev 16:34 “and this shall be a statute forever for you, that atonement may be made for the people of Israel once in the year because of all their sins.”

- Atonement must be made for sin, and in the OT that was through frequent (yearly, weekly, daily) sacrifices.

2. Jesus Knew His Death Was Necessary

John 19:6-12a ESV “6 When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him.” 7 The Jews[s] answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.” 8 When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. 9 He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” 11 Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given to you from above. Therefore, he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.” 12 From then on, Pilate sought to release him”

- The Jewish people did not have the authority to crucify Jesus; therefore, they brought him to Pilate. But Pilate saw no reason that Jesus was worthy of death.

Verse 12 continues on saying “*but the Jews cried out, 'If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.'*”

- The Jewish leaders betray their national heritage, in which God himself is their ultimate king, and deny their own messianic expectations based on the promises of Scripture by professing Caesar ALONE as their king.

Jesus knew that his death was necessary.

- So Pilate offers a solution. He offers to release a prisoner back to the Jewish people- either Jesus or Barrabas, who was a convicted murderer and enemy of Rome. But the people demand Barrabas. So then Pilate lets Barrabas go.
- This is the foreshadowing of what Jesus' sacrifice does. It forgives the sins and provides grace for those who don't deserve it.

John 19:28-30 “28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” 29 A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”

- The two goats from the Day of Atonement are both Jesus.
- Jesus is the first goat- the goat who is killed, blood spilled to cover our sin, and whose life is offered for ours.
- Jesus is the second goat- the scapegoat- who carries the sin of the people, graciously removing their sin.
- The everlasting sacrifice that covers our sins and shortcomings forever was Jesus. Jesus died because it was necessary. Our sin required a perfect sacrifice.

3. Jesus' Death Was Complete

John 20:11-16 “11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept, she stooped to look into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. 13 They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” 14 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic,[b] “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher).”

- Unlike the repeated sacrifices of the Old Testament, which only temporarily covered sin, Jesus’ resurrection sealed His role as the perfect and final atonement.
- Through His victory, believers are assured that their sins are forgiven—not just in part, but completely—through faith in Him, once and for all.

John 20:30-31 “30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

- Because of the resurrection, believers no longer need to rely on rituals or repeated offerings to be made right with God; instead, they stand forgiven and justified through Christ’s finished work.
- His resurrection is not just a historical event, but a living promise that those who place their faith in Him are spiritually raised to new life, no longer bound by guilt or condemnation.
- Because He lives, we can face life with confidence, knowing that our sins are covered, our debt is paid, and our future is secure.
- The resurrection is not just a past event—it is a present reality that transforms how we live and a future promise that we will one day rise with Him in glory.

4. Next Steps

God’s plan for us isn’t solely about getting to heaven.

- It’s about being connected with God, connected with one another, and serving the church and our community.
- Where can you serve God by using your talents and gifts?

3 ½ years ago when Community Kids went to Wednesday night Midweeks, we started with 25 kids and 2 adult leaders. This last year we ended with **84 kids and 14 leaders**. Kids come back week after week to eat a meal, hang out with adults who care about them, and hear about Jesus. Jesus is the reason. The people in this church- their service to God through the ministry of Community Kids- is the means.

- How are you responding to the sacrifice Jesus made for you? How does it impact your prayer life, your Bible study, your relationships, your accountability, your involvement, your service? What next steps do you need to take to respond in faith to Jesus?