THE CROSS OF CHRIST:
THE NECESSITY OF THE CROSS

Matthew 26

I. The cross is made necessary by the nature of _______

A. Man is by fallen nature a __________________

B. The wages or price of sin is ______________

C. The debt could only be paid by the death of One who is Himself
   a. S__________________
   b. I__________________

II. The cross is made necessary by the nature of ______

A. God’s nature makes Him committed to j______________

B. God is also a God of mercy and love

III. The cross shows us three critical truths:

1. Our ______ must be extremely horrible

2. The ________ of God is wonderful beyond comprehension

3. Salvation must be a _______ _________
**Scripture References:**
(New American Standard Bible (NASB) is used unless otherwise indicated)

**Matthew 26:37-39**
And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. 38 Then He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.” 39 And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.”

**John 18:3-11**
Judas then, having received the Roman cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. 4 So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” 5 They answered Him, “Jesus the Nazarene.” He said to them, “I am He.” And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. 6 So when He said to them, “I am He,” they drew back and fell to the ground. 7 Therefore He again asked them, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus the Nazarene.” 8 Jesus answered, “I told you that I am He; so if you seek Me, let these go their way,” 9 to fulfill the word which He spoke, “Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one.” 10 Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave’s name was Malchus. 11 So Jesus said to Peter, “Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?”

**Romans 6:23**
For the wages of sin is death.

**Galatians 2:16**
A man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

**Romans 3:20**
By the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

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

**Hebrews 9:22**
And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

**Romans 3:10-11**
As it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one; 11 there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God.

**Romans 3:23-26**
For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; 26 for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

**Isaiah 53:5-6**
But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

**Romans 8:32**
He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?