

Why Christ "Had" to Die: Making Sense of the Cross

Mysteries of Easter (part 3)

March 19th/20th | Pastor Matt McGill

Because of the Cross...

1. I can ask for God's FORGIVENESS

34 Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.**" And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. 35 The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One." 36 The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar 37 and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." 38 There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the Jews.

(Luke 23:34-38)

2. I can receive God's SALVATION

39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 Jesus answered him, "**Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.**"

(Luke 23:39-42)

3. I can believe in God's COMPASSION

25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "**Woman, here is your son,**" 27 and to the disciple, "**Here is your mother.**" From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

(John 19:25-27)

Because of the Cross...

4. I can be confident in God's JUSTICE

33 At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 34 And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**"). 35 When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

(Mark 15:33-35)

5. I can be comforted by God's UNDERSTANDING

28 Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "**I am thirsty.**" 29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

(John 19:28-29)

6. I can rest in God's GRACE

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "**It is finished.**" With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

(John 19:30)

7. I can live in God's STRENGTH

44 It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, 45 for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, "**Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.**" When he had said this, he breathed his last.

(Luke 23:44-46)

Questions about the **message**? Is **God calling you** to **serve** our **kids** or **students**?
No experience needed, just servant-hearted people who love Jesus. We will train you!
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