

# Some Would Die *For a Cause* Some Want to Die *Because...*

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## I. Some would die *for a cause*

### A. Samson—At times, an AWOL soldier—Yet *for a cause*, he would die a hero

Jdg 16:28 And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.

Jdg 16:29 And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left.

Jdg 16:30 And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with *all his* might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that *were* therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than *they* which he slew in his life.

### B. Peter—Early on, he knew he would be crucified *for the cause*—Yet he never hid

Joh 21:18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry *thee* whither thou wouldest not.

Joh 21:19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

Act 4:6 And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

Act 4:7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or **by what name**, have ye done this?

Act 4:10 ...**by the name of Jesus Christ** of Nazareth, whom ye crucified...

Act 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for **there is none other name** under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

2Pe 1:14 Knowing that shortly I must put off *this* my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

### C. Paul—Jesus was dearer to him than his life—He would live and die *for the cause*

Act 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

2Ti 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

### D. And others—Unnamed martyrs through the centuries would die *for the cause*

Heb 11:36 And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

Heb 11:37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword...

### E. Jesus—No man could take His life—In full control—He would die *for the cause*

Joh 10:18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again...

Luk 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

## II. Some want to die *because...*

### A. Moses wanted to die *because*—It seemed the whole world was on his shoulders

Num 11:13 Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat.

Num 11:14 I am not able to bear all this people alone, because *it is* too heavy for me.

Num 11:15 And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.

**B. Elijah wanted to die because— ‘I, even I only, am left’**

1Ki 19:2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do *to me*, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time.

1Ki 19:3 And when he saw *that*, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which *belongeth* to Judah, and left his servant there.

1Ki 19:4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I *am* not better than my fathers.

1Ki 19:9 And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD *came* to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?

1Ki 19:10 And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, *even* I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

**C. Job wanted to die because— ‘It all hurts so bad!’**

Job 3:20 Wherefore is light given to him that is in misery, and life unto the bitter *in* soul;

Job 3:21 Which long for death, but it *cometh* not...

Job 6:8 Oh that I might have my request...

Job 6:9 Even that it would please God to destroy me...

Job 7:15 ...my soul chooseth strangling, *and* death rather than my life.

Job 7:16 I loathe *it*; I would not live alway: let me alone; for my days *are* vanity.

**D. Jeremiah wanted to die because—‘Nobody likes me, everybody hates me’**

Jer 20:7 O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.

Jer 20:8 For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily.

Jer 20:9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But *his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*.

Jer 20:14 Cursed *be* the day wherein I was born...

**E. Jonah wanted to die because—He was angry with God**

Jon 4:1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.

Jon 4:2 And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, *was* not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou *art* a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

Jon 4:3 Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for *it is* better for me to die than to live.

Jon 4:4 Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry?

**III. Jesus knows all about all the ‘because’s’**

**A. If your load is like Moses’—Jesus knows about the whole world on your shoulders**

Joh 1:29 ...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

**B. If your pain is like Job’s—Jesus knows how it feels to hurt**

Psa 22:16 ...they pierced my hands and my feet.

Isa 53:11 ...the travail of his soul...

**C. If you are as lonely as Elijah—Jesus knows the sadness of being all alone**

Mat 27:46 ...My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

**D. If you feel as rejected as Jeremiah—Jesus knows how it is to be hated by all**

Isa 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief

**E. If you have ever felt upset with God—Maybe Jesus even knows how that feels**

Psa 22:1 My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *why art thou so* far from helping me, *and from* the words of my roaring?

Psa 22:2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.

Psa 22:3 But thou *art* holy, *O thou* that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

Psa 22:4 Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them...

**F. Whatever you face—Whatever you feel—Jesus truly knows all about how you feel**

Heb 2:18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted (*tested, tried*), he is able to succour (*help, aid, relieve*) them that are tempted.

Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin.

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.