

HC 38-39 – Why did Jesus have to Suffer the way he did

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The death of Jesus was a remarkable story of a totally innocent man being put to death in a torturous way. **But the death of Jesus was much more than that of a totally innocent man being put to death in a torturous way.** Jesus' death, all the details of his death, had a purpose, an absolutely necessary purpose. You will hear about that today.

Our headings are:

Why Christ had to suffer the way he did: The Principle

Why Christ had to suffer the way he did: The Particulars

Our goals are: That seeing afresh the reasons Jesus suffered the way he did for you, **your love for him will be rekindled, and you will hold on to him with fresh passion and serve him better.**

Why Christ had to suffer the way he did: The principle

38 Q. WHY DID HE SUFFER "UNDER PONTIUS PILATE" AS JUDGE?

A. So that he, **though innocent**, might be **condemned by a civil judge**, and so **free us from the severe judgment** of God that was to fall on us.

1. God required that Jesus had to be lawfully condemned by a civil judge.

Luke 23:22 Then he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go." 23 But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed. **24 So Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they requested.**

Pilate did not just let the Jews do what they wanted, **or Jesus would have been killed by a Middle Eastern mob.**

Pilate **legally condemned Jesus to die on the cross**... He heard the evidence, he considered the circumstances, and **he unfairly, but legally condemned Jesus.**

As the cross came nearer, the **wise men**, the **angels**, and the **shepherds disappeared** and **vindictive Jewish leaders, indifferent Roman leaders**, and a **manipulated Jewish people** took over to make sure Jesus was condemned and sent to the cross.

Yet, Pilate and others were doing what God had determined had to be done to Jesus...

Acts 2:23 "Him, being delivered by the **determined purpose and foreknowledge of God**, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

2. God required Jesus had to be innocent and condemned by a civil judge.

a. Pilate confirmed Jesus was innocent. He even tried to use a few drops of water to wash away the stain of his crime, but that was only to fool himself and manipulate the Jewish leaders. **Water could not wash away his sin.**

Matthew 27:24 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "**I am innocent of the blood of this just Person.** You see to it."

b. Pilate's wife knew he was innocent. She was troubled by her husband's judgment and begged him to back away from his plans. (Matthew 27:19)

c. The priests knew he was innocent, but they wanted him out of the way as he hindered their money-making ways.

3. God required Jesus had to be a perfect substitute for you – a right substitute.

The substitute couldn't be a dog or a donkey. A dog or donkey's blood wouldn't please God. Even the blood of clean animal could not satisfy God's justice. The clean animal's blood only pictured the true Lamb of God's blood.

Isaiah 53: 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; **He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,** So He opened not His mouth.

God the Father had to see the guilty one (the one on whom your sins were put) crushed for you.

2Corinthians 5:21 - For He made Him who **knew no sin to be sin for us**, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

This teaches the pure perfection of the Lord Jesus...his sinlessness that God counts as yours.

4. Seeing Jesus was the absolutely innocent God-man who came to earth to be willingly condemned for you, and seeing that he was the perfect and only substitute for sins, realize how great your sin is and how great your salvation is.

5. Some false religions try to make up for their sins by

a. Giving to charity. You see this in Islam.

b. By punishing themselves. You see this in Hinduism.

c. By becoming busy and hoping to get rid of guilt and sin from their minds.

d. By using drugs and alcohol, they bury their sin and shame.

e. By trying not to be as bad and doing better the next time after they sin.

The only way to deal with your sins is to receive the forgiveness God offers because Christ took the punishment for your sins on the cross.

Why Christ had to suffer the way he did: The Particulars

39 Q. IS IT SIGNIFICANT THAT **HE WAS "CRUCIFIED"** INSTEAD OF DYING SOME OTHER WAY?

A. Yes. This death convinces me that he shouldered the curse which lay on me, since death by crucifixion was accursed by God.

1. God required Jesus has to be cursed with death by crucifixion because Jesus had to be cursed in the worst possible way.

He had to be cursed in the **worst possible way** to cover the **worst sins man could have**.

Galatians 3: 10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "**Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things** which are written in the book of the law, to do them."

11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith."¹² Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them."¹³ Christ has **redeemed us from the curse of the law**, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "**Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree**"),¹⁴ that the **blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles** in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

a. If the Jews had their way, they would have stoned Jesus to death. That was their favorite way to execute a criminal. **But death by stoning would not have satisfied the Father.** The one who was stoned had his chest crushed and stone piled on him. It was a relatively quick death. He had to die in a most gruesome way – and that was death on the cross.

b. Also, Jesus could not have been secretly executed. He had to **be a public sacrifice for sins**. God's justice demanded public execution. And then he had to **suffer the humiliation of being crucified with criminals**, though he was innocent. He had to be placed **in the middle of criminals**.

c. Also, Jesus could not come off of the cross as he was taunted to do. No, he had to stay there and endure the entire suffering. He had to **endure the curse until he died**. You see, no death, no resurrection. No resurrection, forgiveness. No forgiveness, no restoration with God.

2. And remember Jesus' suffering (last week), especially at the end of his life-physically and spiritually.

a. Physically: He was stripped naked, impaled in his side, and his hands and feet were nailed to a cross. They scourged him – made furrows on his back. They crowned him with a crown of thorns. They filled his mouth with vinegar. They slapped his face. They did this to the one who created heaven and earth...things seen and things not seen.

b. Spiritually: Jesus was accursed by God. He was arrested and endured a mock trial. They mocked him as a pretending king, dressing him as a fake king. They spat on him. He watched as his friends abandoned, denied, and betrayed him. The Jewish religious leaders, who should have supported a godly man, abandoned him. His people, who had chanted "hosanna," chanted "crucify him." He had to die for those who did not care that he was dying for them. These wicked people called for God's judgment upon their own children...ignoring the only hope that could have been theirs...

3. It is true others have been crucified and others have suffered cruel deaths and still do today.

In the Voice of the Martyrs update you will see that every week. Some have been shot, hung, beheaded, and cut in two for Christ's sake. But none of them suffered as Christ...for he suffered innocently – which is a most horrendous torture of all. None has ever suffered with the abandonment of God...as Jesus. This is why he cried: "My God, my God

why have you forsaken me?"

4. This reference of the shamefulness of being crucified comes from Deuteronomy, so this shamefulness was historically verifiable.

Deuteronomy 21: 22 "If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, 23 "his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance; for **he who is hanged is accursed of God.**

Death on a tree (Jesus died on a green tree-showing hope), **was the highest degree of shame.** Lk 23:31

5. Where does that leave you now?

a. Learn how to view your lives now that you have been saved by Christ's life and death!

Titus 2: 11 For the grace of **God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,** 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,**14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, **zealous for good works.**

The cross was a remarkable thing. But it means little if it were just a sad story about an innocent man who was killed. It must mean more to you. **The work on the cross by Jesus is the work that brings life giving change.** It is the means by which he atoned for your sins and set you free.

b. Be zealous for good works. Nourish yourself so you can do good works.

You will have learned the US had no difficulty recruiting young men to go to war after the 911 attacks. Young men saw the planes crashing into the buildings and they saw pictures of dozens of people jumping to their deaths from the WTC and were motivated to fight.

Is it difficult for you to join in the battle for the Lord's kingdom, considering what he had done for you and what he has given you to assist you with the fight? I hope not!

Conclusion

Our Lord had to be condemned by a civil judge just as you needed to be condemned. He took your place before Pilate who condemned him **and that is why he did not open his mouth.** He was **guilty with your sins.** At that time, he not only had the condemnation of a civil judge, **he also had the curse of God on him.** God punished sin in Christ – sins of the Jews and Gentiles... sins of the past, present, and future...sins of all who believed in him. **And he had to die on the shameful, accursed cross.**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Reflect on God's love for you in Jesus Christ. Just like a time of reflecting on each other's love would cause a refreshment in marriage, **even more would it cause you to be refreshed in your service to the Lord when you reflect on Christ's love** for you – a love that was markedly visible as he hanged on the cross.

2. Respond with praise to the Lord. Say, "Hallelujah." You have reason to sing, "O Christ, our Hope, our heart's desire, redemption's only spring. Creator of the world art thou, its Savior and its King." You were unworthy, but you were redeemed.

Hold on to him for dear life.

Live to please him. Live like you know what he endured for you.

Work like you know he saved your life from sin, death, and hell. This is how you show love...to the one who loved you first.

3. Repeat that work of Jesus to the world so they too can be saved. And if you can't go, send! Send others with your prayer and your gifts.

Finally, if God doesn't accept Christ's work for you, you will have to die for your own sins. **May you ask God today to take Christ's life and death as your life and death so you could go free and you could begin to enjoy his promises.** His demands on you will then be light...as a Father to his children.