

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

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The Old Sabbath day marked the completion of Jesus' creative work. The new Sabbath, today, marks Jesus' re-creative work. But in order to do his re-creative work Jesus had to suffer intensely for you. (That was last time.) But the question comes up: Why did Jesus have to suffer in that way...so intensely? God has the answer for you today.

Our headings are:

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

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

Our goals are: That seeing afresh 重新 Jesus' suffering for you, your love for him will be strong, and you will hold on to him with fresh strength.

Why Christ have 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's justice required that Jesus had to intensely suffer.

2. 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 乌合之众.

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

John 19:16 Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away.^[18]

where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center. 19 Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

As the cross came nearer, the wise men, the angels, the shepherds... all disappeared and vindictive Jewish leaders, indifferent Roman leaders, and a manipulated Jewish people took over to make sure he was condemned. Then Pontius Pilate sent him to the cross. Yet they 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;

3. He had to be innocent. Pilate confirmed Jesus was innocent even though he condemned him to death.

He did try 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."

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)

The priests knew he was innocent, but they wanted him out of the way.

4. He had to be a perfect substitute for you – a right substitute. He couldn't be a dog or a donkey.

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.

Galatians 4:4 ...God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

5. Surely this must make you see the pure perfection of the Lord...his sinlessness that God counts as yours.

6. Surely this must make you see the great extent of your sins.

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

- a. Giving to charity.
- b. By punishing themselves.
- c. Trying to get rid of sins from their minds, as if that would remove their guilt. So they try busy-ness in life...or drugs and alcohol.

The only way to make up for your sins is to receive the forgiveness God offers as he accepts Christ's punishment as yours.

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

39 Q. IS IT SIGNIFICANT THAT HE WAS "CRUCIFIED 钉在十字架上" 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. Jesus has to be cursed with crucifixion because he 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 public 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. The crucifiers acted as if Jesus were the king of criminals by **placing him 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 forgiveness. No death, no resurrection. No resurrection, not restoration with God.

2. And remember Jesus' suffering, 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 – hit, hook, and pull. They crowned him with a crown of thorns. They filled his mouth with vinegar. They slapped his face. And 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 mock king. (How hard to be silent when you want to put someone in his place.) They spat on him. He watched as his friends abandoned and denied him – how that must have hurt. The Jewish religious leaders, who should have supported a godly man, abandoned him. His people who had a few days earlier chanted 高呼“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 for whom Christ was dying... ignoring his teaching...and the only hope that could be theirs...

3. It is true that others have been crucified. Others have suffered cruel deaths and still do. If you read the Voice of the Martyrs update you will see that. 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. And none has ever **suffered with the abandonment of God...**as Jesus Christ. 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.

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

5. Where does that leave you now? Apostle Paul wrote to Titus about how men were to view their lives now that they were 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. Now look for heaven and be zealous for good works.

6. 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?

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 believe in him. And he had to die of 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 more markedly visible as he hanged on the cross.

2. With a refreshed heart, praise the Lord. Say, “Hallelujah.” You have reason to sing, “Christ the Lord is risen today.” You were unworthy, but you were redeemed. Hold on to him for dear life.

3. Then 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. This is your rational service.

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.