

YOU

Bible Study

Sermon Series: Essentials of Christianity

To be used with: The Death of Jesus

Sermon Title Possibilities: Why Jesus Died

Scripture: Isaiah 53:4-6

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the small group session “The Death of Jesus,” this sermon will look at specific biblical reasons for the death of Christ. While His death was beyond tragic, it was not without meaning.

Introduction: History cannot and would not refute that a Jewish man who claimed to be the Son of God was crucified in Jerusalem during the Passover early in the first century. So, the question of was Jesus crucified has been answered. Others, however, might question why He was crucified. Was it merely to push down a possible political uprising? Was He crucified simply out of jealousy? The prophet Isaiah provides a clear message as to why He was killed. Isaiah’s message applied then and it still applies today too.

1. Christ died for our sicknesses and pains (v. 4)

Two key points will drive this sermon. First is the personal nature of why Christ died. The words “our” and “us” are used no less than seven times in these three verses. In each of these seven occurrences the plural pronoun is pointing to an action or result that is less than ideal or desirable. The second key point is the plural nature of the negative words. For example, sicknesses, pains, and iniquities. These words being plural reveal that it was much more than one pain or iniquity for which Christ died. He died for all of them.

Our sicknesses and pains represent all of the personal struggles that we experience. Yes, these can be sicknesses like COVID, cancer, etc. But, these can be the pains that others do not see. Christ died for the pain of a broken heart, for the pain tied to past regrets, or any other pain that we might experience in this life. Isaiah said that Christ not only bore these things but He also carried them. To bare and to carry shows an action taken by Christ in which He chose to endure these things and carry them away from us so that we would not have to endure them.

2. Christ died for our rebellion and iniquities (v. 5)

Rebellion is rarely if ever acceptable behavior. If someone misbehaves on a basketball court, he is allowed to go to the locker room early. If a child openly defies and rebels against his parent, that child may get to spend an extended amount of time by himself. If someone opposed Rome during New Testament times, he paid an extensive price for his rebellion.

We learned in last week's sermon that all of us have sinned and rebelled against God. We learned that none of us are righteous or justified by our own so called good behavior. Instead of God giving us the punishment that we rightly deserve, Christ was pierced for our rebellion. Christ was crushed for our iniquities. Not only this, but Jesus chose to take on our iniquities. He told His disciples that He was willingly going to lay down His life for His friends (John 15:13).

3. Christ died for our punishment (v. 5 & 6)

We are all wired to fight against injustice. If we see someone punished for the actions of another, we resist this and try to make it right. The greatest injustice of all time was the death of Jesus. He lived a sinless life. He never disobeyed the Father and yet He suffered a cruel and horrible death. The reason for this is because He did not want mankind to have to suffer for our own sins.

The CSB renders that last phrase in verse 6 as, "the Lord has punished him for the iniquity of us all." We learn two distinct things from this phrase. First, we see that the Lord is the one who is taking the action. Many wrongly view God as judgmental and condemning. An accurate view is that God is just and He lovingly allowed His judgement to fall upon Christ so that we would not have to experience it. Second, the phrase shows that Christ actively carried away our sins by His sacrificial death on the cross for us. Since our sins have been carried away, we do not have to suffer the punishment for them.

Conclusion: History would not argue that Jesus was crucified early in the first century. We know that He was. Isaiah, hundreds of years before the death of Jesus, told us why Jesus was to be crucified. The question now becomes, what are we to do with this information? Are we to simply walk away and contend that we already knew these things? Or, will we allow this message to not only resonate in our minds, but take over our hearts? Isaiah said, "we are healed by His wounds" (v. 5). If you have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, do not let the day pass without thanking Him for His healing. If, however, you do not know Jesus personally, let today be the day you receive His healing found only in a relationship with Him.

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