

Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

Lesson 6

Leviticus 4, John 3:16; Hebrews 10:14; John 1:29; I Peter 3:18

Memory verse

God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Opener

Have you ever wondered why Jesus had to die? Let's read the Bible and see why Jesus had to die.

All through the Bible, God helps us to know that He has reasons for everything He does. Sometimes we can see and understand. Other times we may not know why things happen.

Many people may wonder why Jesus had to die. When we hear about how Jesus died, it seems too mean and cruel. Why would God allow such an evil people to do this to His only Son?

Let's read some verses that help us discover the very important reason for this act.

Scripture

Leviticus 4: 32-35

" If he brings a lamb as his sin offering, he is to bring a female without defect. He is to lay his hand on its head and slaughter it for a sin offering at the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered. Then the priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering and pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. He shall remove all the fat, just as the fat is removed from the lamb of the fellowship offering, and the priest shall burn it on the altar on top of the offerings made to the LORD by fire. In this way the priest will make atonement for him for the sin he has committed, and he will be forgiven.

Discussion

When someone disobeyed God, they had a plan to get rid of the wrong (sin) in the person's life. The person had to bring an offering to God. It had to be an animal like a small bull, lamb, or birds. The animal had to be the best, with no spots and no problem. In this way a person was giving his best to God as a way to "pay" for his wrongs or sins.

The animal was killed or sacrificed to God in the temple church. God would see the special sacrifice and forgive the person's sin.

Over time, the people forgot about their responsibility or relied on the priest to make a sacrifice for them and their sins. God knew that this offering would not be enough. He had a plan and He was waiting for the perfect time. God even told people long ago that there would be a new way to "take away sin." All the people were excited and couldn't wait to see what God was going to do.

John 3:16

God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

God's plan was different. He knew there needed to be a special sacrifice to remove all the guilt and sin of everyone. Our verse this week gives us a clue as to what God had in mind. God sent His Son, Jesus, into our world. Jesus knew when He came to our world that He had a purpose. You see, He was going to be the perfect sacrifice for us.

Hebrews 10:14

Because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

Jesus lived here with us and helped many people know about God. He taught them important lessons from the Bible. He had twelve friends that followed Him and listened to all His teachings.

Jesus never did wrong all the time that He was here. That's right; Jesus never sinned. This important because God required a perfect sacrifice and Jesus knew that He must be this sacrifice.

Matthew 16:21

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

While He was with us, Jesus taught His friends that He would die one day. He told His friends one day, and Peter told Jesus to stop talking and saying those things. They could not understand why, but Jesus knew.

John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

One day, Jesus' friend John saw Him coming and told the crowd, "Here comes the lamb of God who will take away the sins of the world." (John 1:29) John knew that Jesus was like a pure and perfect lamb that would die as a sacrifice for all our wrongs—just like a long time ago in the Bible.

Then one dark evening, some people came and arrested Jesus. They lied about Jesus and brought Him to the judge. Sadly, Jesus was crucified on a cross even though He had done nothing wrong.

We know the reason Jesus died—not because people didn't like Him. He died to pay the price for all the wrongs we have done. Jesus was a lamb that was sacrificed for all our wrongs. He helped make a way for us to be forgiven.

The best news is that Jesus came back to life! After He died, they put him in a cave grave. Three days later, Jesus came back to life! He made a way for us to go to Heaven. living for God instead of you.

If we believe in Jesus and know that He died and came back to life to pay for all our sins, we can go to Heaven one day. Jesus made a way for us to get to God!

Discussion

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,
The Bible also tells us that Jesus died once for everyone to bring us to God.

Application

Matthew 27:51

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.

When Jesus died on the cross, an interesting thing happened in the temple church. The curtain separating God from the people was split from top to bottom. God tore the curtain to show that because of Jesus' sacrifice, we can now get to God. There is nothing that separates us when we believe in Jesus.

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Bible also tells us that Jesus is the only way to Heaven and Jesus' death is the only way for us to be forgiven and made right with God.

Ask: Do we automatically go to heaven?

No, we do not automatically go to heaven. We must ask God to forgive our sins and ask Jesus to come into our life.

Ask: Do you understand why Jesus had to die?

He was the only way for us to get to Heaven.

Ask: Would you like to go to heaven?

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved and we will have a new life.