

## Introduction:

During His ministry Jesus pointed toward His death on the cross. **John 12:31** "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. **32** "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." **33** This He said, signifying by what death He would die. Later on the disciples came to focus on the cross of Christ but some did not appreciate what was really involved in the "Cross" of Christ.

When viewed from the wisdom of man, it is a "stumbling block" and "foolishness" Even those there that day did not understand its significance. **Matthew 27:36** *Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. **37** And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.* How do you view the cross? What have you learned from it?

### I) Lesson on The Fickleness and Cruelty of Man.

#### A) His popularity on Sunday before His crucifixion.

**Matthew 21:9** *Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!"*

1. The Jewish leaders themselves recognized the adoration and popularity of Jesus.
2. Probably the main reason they did not just arrest Jesus was because of His popularity.
3. But by that Friday many of the same people had turned on Him.

**Mark 15:13** *So they cried out again, "Crucify Him!"*

#### B) Even His own disciples left Him.

1. One betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

**Matthew 26:49** Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

2. Another one denied Jesus three times.

**Matthew 26:35** Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples.

**Matthew 26:69** Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." **70** But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying." **71** And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." **72** But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" **73** And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you." **74** Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. **75** And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

3. Jesus was beaten, mocked, spit on, and crucified.
4. Today many will follow Jesus one day and then leave Him the next.

## II) Lesson on The Curse and Terribleness of Sin

A) When one sees Jesus on the cross they must realize its connection to sin.

1. In one sense those who lied about Him and condemned Him were sinning by condemning an innocent man.
2. In another sense the very reason Jesus had to die was because of sin.

B) Sin

1. Separates one from God.

***Isaiah 59:1*** Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. **2** But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

2. Sin's wage is eternal punishment.

***Ezekiel 18:4*** "Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.

3. One in sin is without God and without hope. One is in a cursed condition when in sin.

**C) Jesus was cursed for us.**

***Galatians 3:13*** 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"),

1. Only criminals were crucified, so Jesus was condemned as a common criminal.
2. One can begin to understand the enormity of sin when they understand the "Cross" was the "Cost" of our "redemption"

***1 Peter 1:18*** knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

**III) Lesson on Sacrifice and Suffering**

**A) Both are essential in serving God.**

***2 Samuel 24:24*** Then the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

1. Both are essential in serving God.

***Romans 12:1*** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

2. There may be times when we think the cost is too great. It is then we need to think about the cross of Jesus.
3. In comparison we haven't suffered as Christ suffered.

**B) Paul learned**

***Romans 8:18*** *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

***2 Corinthians 4:17*** *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,*

1. Suffering is temporary, heaven is eternal.

***Galatians 2:20*** *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

2. To consider his life as one dedicated to Christ.

**IV) Lesson Obedience**

**A) Obedience isn't doing what you want but learning to submit oneself to God.**

***Hebrews 5:8*** *though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.*

1. Obedience is personal, we have to do this for ourselves.
2. Think of the attitude of Jesus.

**Matthew 26:39** *He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."*

3. Obedience is man's duty to God.

**Ecclesiastes 12:13** *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.*

B) The obedience of Christ on the cross should encourage us to obey.

#### V) Lesson on Love and Forgiveness

A) The ultimate example of God's love was Jesus on the cross.

**John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

1. **Romans 5** seeks to put this in perspective as some have called this chapter the whole point of the Gospel of Christ.

**Romans 5:8** *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*

2. Learning this lesson at the cross will help us to love our enemies.

B) **Forgiveness**

1. Who has ever been more unjustly condemned and unfairly treated than Jesus?

2. Yet Jesus found it in His heart, while in agony and pain to pray.

**Luke 23:34** *Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they*

*do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.*

**Conclusion:**

**That prayer was answered on the Day of Pentecost with the preaching of the Gospel of Christ. They learned they had betrayed and killed the Son of God, He is now at the right hand of God in heaven. *Acts 2:37* Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" *38* Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**