

Why Did Jesus Have to Suffer?

Palm Sunday

4/2012 Mark Beard

Text: Isaiah 53 (NIV)

What about God's plan for humanity made the cross necessary? Why was it necessary for Jesus to suffer such a horrible death?

I. His Suffering Acquainted Him with Human Suffering.

1 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. 3 **He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.** Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

II. His Suffering Enabled Him to Take Our Suffering.

4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

III. His Suffering Made It Possible to Take Away Our Sins.

7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. 9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

IV. His Suffering Was A Fulfillment Of God Will.

10 Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. 11 After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the

transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

CONCLUSION

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE FOR US?

Perhaps this story can illustrate this for us:

There was an engineer who operated a drawbridge across a mighty river. With a control panel of levers and switches, he set into motion a monstrous set of gears that either lifted the bridge for river traffic or closed it for the oncoming train.

One day he took his young son to work with him. The fascinated boy hurled question after question at his dad. It was not until the span had opened to allow the passage of a ship that the father noticed the questions had ceased and his son had left the room. He looked out the window of his control cabin and saw the young boy climbing on the teeth of the gears. As he hurried towards the machinery to get his son, he heard the whistle of an approaching train.

His pulse quickened. If he closed the bridge, there would be no time to retrieve his son. He had to make a choice. Either his son would be killed or a train of innocent passengers would be killed. A horrible dilemma mandated a horrible decision. The engineer knew what he had to do. He reached for the lever.

It is true that God could not save mankind without killing His Son.

(Max Lucado, *GOD CAME NEAR*, pgs. 60-61. From a sermon by Rick Finitzer, "JESUS - THERE IS JUST SOMETHING ABOUT THAT NAME!" 1/13/2009)

NOTES:

Illustration: Jesus Took Our Place At Calvary

A man named Goho rose to be chief of the tribe. He was a good man, and far wiser and advanced in understanding than his fellow tribesmen. The year he became chief, the tribe brought in 40 heads. He judiciously suggested that the tribe use one head each year as a gift to the gods and not hunt heads for the next forty years. He believed that a 40-year reprieve in headhunting would stop the practice.

The tribe agreed with the new chief and followed the suggestion for a number of years. But their thirst for blood, and the habits of their pagan religion finally won out, and they decided to hunt for the heads of men again. The chief agreed, but under one condition; the tribe was to take only one head, and it had to be the one he proposed. They agreed. He told them to wait in the jungle by a path, at the evening hour, and a man would pass in a red cape.

The tribesmen waited with their bows and arrows in hand. Then he approached, the man in red, and twelve arrows quickly brought him down and killed him. They decapitated him. Alas, when they held up his head, it was the head of their chief. The tribesmen fell on their faces, weeping. They vowed never to kill another person as headhunters. In a much larger way, Jesus took our place at Calvary. He took the arrows of judgment aimed at us.

Mark 8:31-32 (NIV)

31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. **32** He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

Mark 9:11-13 (NIV)

11 And they asked him, “Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?” **12** Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected? **13** But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him.”

Luke 9:21-23 (NIV)

21 Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. **22** And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Matthew 17:11-13 (NIV)

11 Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. **12** But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.” **13** Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

Acts 17:2-4 (NIV)

2 As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, **3** explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,” he said. **4** Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

Hebrews 2:8-10 (NIV)

8 and put everything under their feet.”

In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. **9** But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

10 In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

Hebrews 9:25-27 (NIV)

25 Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. **26** Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. **27** Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.