

The Cross and Your Story

The cross is the turning point of all history, of all stories, including our own. The purpose of looking at the cross is not to induce shame but instead to evoke a sense of responsibility and a deeper understanding of the depth of love God has shown you through His Son.

What would be the benefit of having a clean conscience?

Hebrews 9:14

What does Jesus' blood do for us that we cannot do for ourselves?

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Why do you think Jesus had to go to the cross?

2 Corinthians 5:21

God has a vision for your story that is possible due to Jesus' sacrifice. If you became "the righteousness of God," how would that change your story?

"We sinned for no reason but an incomprehensible lack of love, and He saved us for no reason but an incomprehensible excess of love." Peter Kreeft

Text - **Matthew 27:11-46** Three ways Jesus suffered...

1. Emotionally - he carried our sorrows. Jesus can relate to our emotional needs.
2. Physically - he was smitten and afflicted, beaten and bruised. Isaiah 52:14 "...his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness."
3. Spiritually & Relationally - The greatest pain Jesus felt was spiritual .
 - Jesus expressed his agony when he cried out, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani*" - which means "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" **Mark 15:34**

Review the medical account of the cross and view selected scenes from "The Passion of Christ"

Based on what we just read and imagined, let's read a prophecy not only about the death of Jesus but about our story as well.

Isaiah 53:4-6 (written 700 years before Jesus' time!)

Text - **Matthew 28:1-15** Jesus rose from the dead...

This remarkable gift from God demands a response. "What shall I do?" is the question.

Do you believe that Jesus is who he said he is - the Son of God?

And do you believe that he died for your sins, and rose from the dead on the third day?

If you agree with the above, then the Spirit which raised Jesus in His story is ready and waiting for you in your story.

Romans 8:9-11

In our next study we are going to learn how a person receives forgiveness of sins and the help of the Holy Spirit to fight against sinful nature.

Exercise before our next talk:

Based on your "sin list" or "life journal" that you have already started, consider a letter to God.

Here is a key format that can help promote healthy thoughts and perspective "God, when I

_____, I hurt _____ and you. I am sorry and want to ask for your forgiveness."

(sin)

(someone)