

The Love Letter

Lesson#2: Love Story Study Series

The Purpose: The goal is to begin to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

Acts 2: 36-37

1. These people were totally moved by the fact that Jesus died for them on the cross.
2. Why don't we respond that way?
3. They understood some things about the cross that we don't.
4. Let's study the cross.

Jesus Suffered Emotionally

Mathew 26:36-46, 47-56, 57-68, 69-74

- I. **(36-46)** Describe in detail how Jesus suffered emotionally. Even though he is God in the flesh, he was also a man and felt what we would have felt. Below are some examples.
 - A. He was sorrowful, knowing He was going to die, even to the point of death. How would you feel if you knew in advance you were going to die?
 - B. He prayed to God to take it from Him.
 - C. In the end He was willing to obey God's will but this was tough.
 - D. Not even His best friends understood (fell asleep).
- II. **(47-56)** Jesus was betrayed
 - A. He was betrayed by Judas and Judas was one of his close friends. How would that make you feel?
 - B. The rest of his friends ran off ((56).
- III. **(57-68)** Jesus was lied on and accused of blasphemy. Afterwards, he began to suffer physically when he was spat on, punched and slapped. We are told by Jesus (52-54) that he could call twelve legions of angels to stop all this. Why didn't he? That's a question we'll answer as we go.
- IV. **(69-74, Luke 22:60-61)** Peter denies Jesus three times.

- **Question: Jesus still had the power to stop all of this. So, why didn't He?**

He Suffered Physically

Matthew 27: 11-26, 27-31, 32-44

- I. (11-26)
 - A. Even though Jesus was accused, he made no threats to anyone.
 - B. Pilate had the authority to release or execute Jesus or Barabbas, a murderer. He “took himself out of the picture” by symbolically washing his hands. By the desires of the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas and handed Jesus over to the Roman soldiers to be beaten and crucified. Do you think that was a legitimate way to deny responsibility? How would you feel if you were in Jesus’ position?
- II. (26-31)
 - A. Jesus was flogged (describe flogging)
 - B. A purple robe was placed on him
 - C. He was given a crown of thorns, and stuck in the head with a rod again and again (Beaten so badly that his face was marred beyond human likeness (Isaiah 52:14)
 - D. The robe was ripped off of him then he was taken to be crucified
- III. (32-44)
 - A. As if Jesus wasn’t already suffering enough, He was mocked by the chief priests, teachers of the law, the elders, and even by the two thieves who were crucified alongside Him.
 - B. Discuss briefly how someone suffers and dies via crucifixion.

He Suffered Spiritually

Matthew 27:45-50, Isaiah 59: 1-2, II Corinthians 5:21

- I. Why did Jesus say God had forsaken Him?
- II. (Isaiah 59: 1-2, I Corinthians 5:21) Jesus took on our sin on the cross. When he did, he and God became separate for the first time in history. It was like God cutting off His right arm.
- III. Despite Jesus’ emotional suffering and his physical pain, this caused Jesus His *greatest* pain.

Why Did Jesus Go Through All of This?

- I. This was caused by you
 - A. If you’d been the only person who ever sinned, Jesus would have had to die for you to be forgiven.
 - B. Your sin caused Jesus to die. (Share personally)
 - C. You are guilty. I am guilty. We are guilty.
 - D. How do you feel?

- II. This was done for you
- A. In spite of who we are, what we've done, Jesus did all this to give us the chance to be saved.
 - B. It was done for you. He was thinking about you. You are the reason that He didn't call down twelve legions of angels and stop the suffering.
 - C. His love for you kept Him on the cross.
 - D. This is God's love. This is God's grace in action.
 - E. Do you understand how much God loves you, how special you are in his eyes?
 - F. How does this make you feel?

Homework

Look over your notes from this study

Answer the Questions:

- A. How have you seen God's love for you in your life?
- B. How have you hurt Him?
- C. How has God been reaching out to you?

Read: I Peter 2:21-25

Jesus died to give us an example of how we should live. We have the opportunity to live for something greater and become a better version of ourselves.

Answer the Question:

- A. How does Jesus expect you to respond to the cross?
- B. What does he want from you?

Let's discuss this next time we get together.

Additional Scriptures: Isaiah 52:13-15, 53:1-12

If you have questions or are interested in continuing this series under the mentorship or a trained Bible Teacher, please contact us @

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