

Jesus Bible Study Series

Week #8 (Chapter Fifteen)
Delivered Up to be Crucified

HMR
Men's Bible Study

Main Idea

Without Jesus' death on the cross there is no Christianity. As the writer of Hebrews said, *without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness*. With today's hectic pace where we are so often focused on consumption, accompanied with personal wealth and comfort, it is easy to be dismissive of the horrific price that Jesus paid for Believers on the cross. Jesus' death was substitutionary for the Elect. Those of us who know Him as Lord should live lives that reflect our true understanding of what He did for us.

Deep Thoughts

Living Christianity in the comforts of America can be difficult for the very reason that, in general, our lives are generally not difficult compared to the rest of the world. Think about it. How often do you not have anything you really need? And most of us would have to admit that rarely do we live without things we *want*. The reason that Christianity is difficult when lived in the atmosphere of the affluent is that our senses are dulled to the sacrifice that Jesus really made for us. Consider a hypothetical situation to make the point. Let's say that you committed a horrible crime in response to something that was done to you. To be specific, let's say that you murdered someone because of harm they caused to you or one of your family members. You are placed on trial and convicted of murder, the sentence – capital punishment. After several years of waiting for eventual punishment, the day finally comes. You hear the guards coming down the hall and prepare for the worst. As your cell door opens you see someone there whom you have never met, accompanied by the guards and a judge. The judge proceeds to tell you that this man, whom you have never met, has agreed to die for you. After stunned silence, you muster the courage to ask why. The only answer that you are given is that the man loves you and has agreed to die in your place. You finally come to grips with the fact that you are going to live and will be reunited with your family. Needless to say, your heart is overwhelmed with appreciation and gratitude. **Now, here is the question for you – do you think you will ever forget this man?** Odds are that you will think about him each day for the rest of your life. Why? Because you appreciate how close you came to death and that because of him you did not die. Because few of us really understand how close we came to death apart for Christ, it is easy for us to be casual in our commitment to Him. The reason that Jesus died a horrific death was to demonstrate God's full measure of love for us. The key to avoiding weakness and half-heartedness in living the Christian life is to *look to the cross*. The next time you find yourself in the throes of temptation, look to the cross and see where you land. In this lesson we continue our focus on *abiding in Christ by understanding who He was, who He is, and who He calls us to be.*

Supporting Scriptures Various passages from all four books of the Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).

Questions for Consideration

1. In our last lesson we discussed how that during the six trials of Jesus it was really mankind who was on trial. As you consider the Jewish response in Matthew 27:25, how has history demonstrated that God has held and will hold the nation of Israel accountable for their hand in the death of Jesus (note: both Romans and Revelation are very clear that at a future date Israel will indeed see Jesus as Messiah. There is no place for anti-Semitism in the Church as it reflects ignorance of the Old Testament, New Testament Epistles, prophecy, and world history itself).
2. Psalm 22 is recognized as one of the most powerful examples of Messianic prophecies in the entire Bible. In this Psalm what references to the crucifixion do we see? Secondly, what references do we see to Christianity?
3. The Gospel accounts are a tremendous resource for details on the crucifixion and the events that surrounded Jesus' death. On the back page is a chart that lists some of the events accompanied with the associated Gospel texts. In reviewing this table, first look at those events that are detailed in a single Gospel (**noted in RED**), and then look at those that addressed in multiple Gospels.

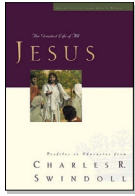
Take-away Points

Crucifixion was horrific. There is likely no better English word to describe what Jesus had to endure for us. When we couple crucifixion with Jesus, we arrive at the ultimate example of selflessness. During your time with the Lord this week, think about the crucifixion. Think about what Jesus did for you and me. Is your life being lived in response to Jesus' death on the cross?

Events of the Cross – A Study in New Testament Correlations

Provided below is a list of the events associated with Jesus' crucifixion and experience on the cross. The intent is to show harmony of the Gospels, while at the same time demonstrating the completeness in how Jesus' death is portrayed.

Event	Gospel Accounts			
	Matthew 27	Mark 15	Luke 23	John 19
1. Crucifixion	32 – 34	21–24	26–27, 32 – 34	16b – 18
2. Dividing up of clothes	35	24	34	23 – 24
3. Mary and John				25 – 27
4. Two robbers	38	27	32	18
5. Insults from the Jewish leaders, robbers, and crowd	39 – 44	28 – 32	35 – 38	
6. Temple curtain torn, earthquakes, and opening of tombs	51 – 53	38	44 – 45	
7. Women of Jerusalem at the crucifixion	55 – 56	40 – 41	27, 49	25
8. Jesus' remarks to the Women of Jerusalem			28 – 31	
9. Criminal's conversion experience			39 – 43	
10. Centurion's remarks	54	39	47	
11. Sponge and vinegar	34, 48	23, 36	36	29 – 30
12. Removal from the cross and burial	57 – 61	42 – 47	50 – 56	31 – 37, 38 – 42
13. Death	45 – 50	33 – 37	44 – 46	28 – 30



Jesus Bible Study Series

Week #8 (Chapter Sixteen)

Not to Worry... He is Risen

HMR
Men's Bible Study

Main Idea

The death of Jesus on the cross is a certainly milestone in the chronicles of eternal history. However, as important as Jesus' death is to the lives of Believers, the greatest power of God was demonstrated through the resurrection. **Jesus' death was necessary to establish Him as the ultimate and perfect sacrifice for our sins; however, His resurrection was necessary to qualify Him as our Savior.** Jesus did it all – life, death, and the resurrection. Now it's our turn - to live lives worthy of the calling He has for us.

Deep Thoughts

There are so many aspects of Christianity that set it apart from all other world religions. The first is that our relationship with God, and most importantly our eternal salvation and security, have nothing to do with us. It is all about God (Romans 8:28–31). Another critical element is that our Founder is also our Lord and God. This will always be something that is still hard to comprehend; however, we are required to believe, not to understand. A final critical element is that our Founder is not buried in a tomb. Not only did His life transcend human existence, even in His death Jesus was above us all. Another aspect of the resurrection that I love is that it is another tremendous proof that Jesus was exactly who He claimed to be – The Messiah, God Incarnate. As Peter wrote (cf. 1 Peter 1):

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

May we be motivated to live for Christ because of His willingness to die for us, but also His passion for life and completion of the task in coming back from the dead to be our Lord. In this lesson we continue our focus on *abiding in Christ by understanding who He was, who He is, and who He calls us to be.*

Supporting Scriptures John 20; 27:57-66 and 28:11-15.

Questions for Consideration

4. Read John 20 and consider the following questions.
 - a) Through both the crucifixion and resurrection experiences, women play a critical role. Why were (and perhaps *are*) women more apt to readily trust Christ and look to Him for hope than men? What can we all learn, especially men, from the example we see lived out in the women of the gospel?
 - b) A favorite passage of mine in the Bible is John 20:16. What was so impacting to Mary when Jesus simply mentioned her name?
 - c) For most of Christian history Thomas has been maligned as the great doubter. What is so important for us in studying Thomas' response in John 20:28? In our lives, what happens when we doubt Jesus and His promises to us?
5. Read Matthew 27:57-66 and 28:11-15. Isn't it interesting that the Jewish religious leaders remembered Jesus' exact words, although His own followers seemed blind to the truth? What do we learn from the response of the Jewish leaders as portrayed in their communication to Pilate and interaction with the tomb guards?
6. We are at a point in this study where it is appropriate to ask some critical questions about our walk with Jesus (in part because we have covered the fundamental points necessary to understand that Jesus was indeed the Messiah and what is necessary for salvation). How has Jesus changed your life? If someone were to ask you why you are a follower of Christ, what would be your response?

Take-away Points

As heart-wrenching and gruesome as it is for us to study the crucifixion of Jesus, the resurrection brings restoration to the Christian emotion. May we remember Jesus through the power of the resurrection and live our lives focused on the power that is available to us as Believers to overcome sin and mediocrity in living the Christian life.

Next Meeting Time: Tuesday, May 6. Read Chapters 17 and 18 in *Jesus, The Greatest Life of All*, in preparation.