

“He Saved Others; Himself He Cannot Save”

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Introduction: Did Jesus Have to Die?

- A. Many modern day explanations of the crucifixion of Jesus diminish the true reason for His death (e.g. politics, religion, corrupt government, etc.).
- B. By recognizing **the truth** about Jesus’ death, we can maintain a greater appreciation for what Christ did for us and always be thankful within our hearts.
- C. By understanding His sacrifice, we can put our faith and trust in Him for salvation.

I. Jesus Appears to be a Helpless Victim of Crucifixion.

- A. To the rulers and the mob, it seemed as if Jesus had no control of His situation upon the cross (**Mat. 27:33-44**).
- B. Yet, Jesus by His own accord **choose** to give up His life on the cross.
 - 1. No one could take His life from Him (**John 10:17-18**).
 - 2. By His choice of obedience to the Father’s will, Jesus gave Himself up to be crucified (**Phil. 2:8**).
- C. Jesus could have appealed to God the Father for deliverance at any time, yet instead He fulfilled the Father’s will.
 - 1. Jesus understood that it was His purpose to die for the sins of the world (**John 12:27**).
 - 2. When surrounded by a mob armed with swords and clubs and a band of Roman soldiers, Jesus choose to obey the Father’s will (**Mat. 26:47-54**; John 18:3).
 - 3. Jesus at no time was a helpless victim of injustice, but instead He willingly submitted to the authorities established by God (**Rom. 13:1**; cf. **John 19:10-11**).

II. The People Insisted That Jesus Prove He was the Son of God.

- A. The mob mocked Jesus, demanding He save Himself from the cross (**Mat. 27:39-44**).
 - 1. The rulers, the soldiers, and even the robbers (crucified with Him) hurled “verbal stones” at Jesus, as if crucifixion wasn’t enough!
 - 2. The rulers mocked Jesus, believing it to be impossible for Jesus to now escape out of their hands (**Mat. 27:41-42**).
 - a. The rulers supposed that if the Father really delighted in Him, that God would deliver Jesus from His disgraceful punishment (**Mat 27:43**).
 - b. Little did they know that what they were speaking fulfilled a prophecy concerning the Messiah (**Ps. 22:6-8**).
 - 3. Even the Roman soldiers joined in the mockery of Jesus, hoping to add to the humiliation and suffering of Jesus (**Luke 23:36-37**).
 - 4. The robbers being crucified with Jesus were insulting Jesus as well (**Mt 27:44**).
- B. Yet, through it all, Jesus did not retaliate, but trusted and obeyed, focusing on **our** forgiveness!
 - 1. If there was ever a person who deserved a chance at revenge it was Jesus.
 - 2. But, He didn’t take revenge, instead He **trusted** in the Father and died for our sins! (**1 Pet. 2:22-24**).

3. Instead of retaliation, Jesus desired our forgiveness! (**Luke 23:34**).
- C. Jesus had nothing to prove; He had already demonstrated that He was the Son of God by the miracles He performed
 1. Many already recognized Him as Christ the King (**Luke 19:37-38**).
 2. Jesus performed miracles abundantly that proved to the world that He was the Son of God (**John 20:30-31**).
- D. The people failed to understand that an even greater miracle was at hand.
 1. The people sneered at Jesus, challenging Him to come down from the cross (**Mat. 27:39-40**).
 2. Yet, they completely misapplied and misunderstood what Jesus meant by His prophecy to destroy and raise up the temple (**John 2:18-21**).
 3. In the days ahead, many would be surprised and amazed at the greatest miracle and proof of all proofs that Jesus was indeed the Son of God!
 4. Jesus would rise from the dead! (**Rom 1:3-4; Mt 28; Mk 16; Lk 24; John 20**).

III. Jesus Did Not Save Himself So He Could Save Others.

- A. Jesus deliberately did not save Himself from the cross so we could be saved eternally.
 1. Jesus did not die by mere tragic circumstances that were out of His control.
 2. Historians explain His crucifixion away due to the politics, government, and religion of the day:
 3. He did not die by accident or by chance was at the wrong place at the wrong time as some liberal theologians or Premillennialists say.
 4. Jesus died on **purpose** in order to save sinners (**Mark 10:45**).
- B. It was always Jesus' mission on earth to die for the sins of the world.
 1. Jesus was born into the world for the purpose to save sinners (**Mat 1:20-21**).
 2. John understood from the start what Jesus' true purpose was (**John 1:29**).
 3. Jesus came not to be served like an earthly king nor to set up an earthly kingdom, but to save sinners like you and me (**1 Tim. 1:15; Rom. 3:23; 5:8**).
- C. It was according to God's eternal plan that Jesus would die for **our** sins.
 1. The death of Jesus was not merely a miscalculation of justice or a tragic murder that happened by chance, it was according to God's **eternal** plan (**Acts 2:22-24**).
 - a. The Eternal God planned this before the world began! (**1 Pet. 1:19-20**).
 - b. This is hard for us to comprehend (**2 Pet. 3:8**), yet it is true!
 - c. God was not limited in any way by the timing of mankind, but in *His time* God fulfilled His plan to have Jesus be the Savior of the world.
 2. In a sense, the crowds who mocked Jesus while on the cross were *right* when they said, "*He saved others; Himself He cannot save.*"
 - a. He could not save Himself and *at the same time* fulfill the Father's will.
 - b. Jesus could not and would not save Himself **if** He was to save others from sin and eternal death.

Conclusion: Jesus did not save Himself in order to save you! Respond in obedient faith to the gospel of Jesus Christ and be saved today!