

## 5. Jesus: His Death

**Like most people**, you probably do not think too much about your death, and certainly not the manner in which you will die. But Jesus was not like most people. He was well aware that the time of His death was fast approaching. Unlike the rest of us, Jesus was truly the *only* man born to die. He knew it and let His disciples know it, too!

**Matthew 20:28**

***"just as the Son of Man did not come to be served,  
but to serve,  
and to give His life a ransom for many."***

**What do you learn about Jesus from this verse?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**The Greek word** translated "ransom" was used in antiquity to describe the *payment* one made for a *slave* in order to *set them free*.  
**How is this relevant in this verse?**

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**Can you imagine** what it would be like to know that the purpose of your life, and the reason you were even born, was *not* to experience life in all its fullness, but to die in order that others might? Jesus carried this burden, and it had a profound affect on His life described in **Isaiah 53:2-3**.

**2** ***For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot,  
And like a root out of parched ground;  
He has no stately form or majesty  
That we should look upon Him,  
Nor appearance  
that we should be attracted to Him.***

**3** ***"He was despised and forsaken of men,  
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
"And like one from whom men hide their face  
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him."***

**What does this description of Jesus say about our culture today?**

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**Matthew 20:28 (Observations)**

**Circle** what Jesus did not come for.

**Circle** what Jesus did come for.

**Underline** what He gave His life for.

**Have you ever** asked yourself, "Why am I here?" When I attended college years ago, there was a movement among young adults to "find themselves" and to search for the answers to the eternal questions of life. It seemed Jesus was not burdened so much with the search as with ensuring He fulfilled His God given Calling, and the Purpose He was sent from Heaven.

**Considering** the importance of His life for all humanity, it is surprising that Scripture is devoid of descriptions of what He looked like, or even was like, except for a single passage in Isaiah. It describes a man who carried a secret burden, but who did not waver from fulfilling it no matter the cost ... no matter the pain, as we will see.

**Isaiah 53:2-3 (Observations)**

**v2**

**Underline** the two descriptions on how Jesus grew up.

**Circle** what 3 things He did not have.

**Underline** 2 consequences.

**v3**

**Circle** how Jesus was treated by men.

**Underline** what kind of 'man' He was.

(See **Isaiah 53:4**)

**Circle** what men hid from Him.

**Circle** what we did not do.

**Suffice it to say**, Jesus would not have made it on the celebrity circuit, or become a media star. He lacked the qualities that we normally apply to those who become prominent. In fact, He actually was the opposite. But the quality He did possess, and which qualified Him to be the 'Lamb of God', is holiness of His Father, obedience to His father and love for His Father.

## Jesus' Death Foretold

We already saw in the last section that **Jesus** knew His fate and His end. And He shared it with His disciples to prepare them and instill within them a sense of urgency, for His time was short. His Words would be confirmed by an angel, and would lead to the greatest miracle which we will look at in the next lesson.

### Mark 8

**31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.**

**32 He spoke this word openly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.**

**33 But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."**

**Why was Jesus so specific?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**What is significant about Jesus' rebuke?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Three days after His death** and burial, the women returned to the tomb only to find it empty. An angel spoke to them.

### Luke 24

**6 "He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee,**

**7 "saying, "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.""**

**8 And they remembered His words.**

**What does this teach us about Jesus' words vs reality?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**What is significant about Jesus appearing first to the women?**

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### Mark 8:31-33 (Observations)

v31

*Circle what Jesus will suffer.*

*Circle who will reject Him.*

*Circle what will finally be done to Him.*

*Circle what He will do in three days.*

v32

*Underline what Peter did.*

v33

*Circle what Jesus did to Peter.*

*Underline what He said to Peter.*

*Circle what He said Peter was not mindful of and of what he was.*

### Luke 24:6-8 (Observations)

v6 *Circle what the angel declared.*

*Underline what he tells them to remember.*

v7 *Compare this verse with the verse 31 above.*

v8 *Circle what they remembered.*

## Jesus' Death ~ Its Significance

### John 19

30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine,  
He said, "It is finished!"  
And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Jesus completed the task God sent Him to do. What task has He sent you to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Colossians 2 (NASV)

13 When you were dead in your transgressions  
and the uncircumcision of your flesh,  
He made you alive together with Him,  
having forgiven us all our transgressions,  
14 having canceled out the certificate of debt  
consisting of decrees against us,  
which was hostile to us;  
and He has taken it out of the way,  
having nailed it to the cross.

**Colossians 2:13-14** expresses the utter hopeless condition we all were in before being reborn in newness of life in Jesus! The Apostle Paul writes that we were "dead in (our) transgressions" or sins. The Greek word used here for 'dead' is defined in *James 2:26* as the condition of *the body without the spirit*. With all due respect to *zombies*, bodies absent the spirit or soul are incapable of doing anything associated with the things living bodies can do. *The dead are dead!* And no matter how much you exhort them or plead with them, apart from a miracle, *dead bodies cannot and will not respond*.

It took Jesus' **death** and **resurrection** to enable us to live again through faith in the *Atonement (Ransom)* He made on our behalf for our sins. In that moment of Faith, God makes us alive with Jesus, *forgiving all our transgressions* by cancelling out our '**Certificate of Debt**' (See sidebar) containing the list of our sins committed against a Holy God. This was made possible because Jesus died for us on the cross!

Knowing this, describe the uniqueness of the Christian Faith

compared to all the others. \_\_\_\_\_

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### John 19:30 (Observations)

Underline what Jesus said.

Circle what He gave up.

The phrase, 'It is finished!' is translated from the single Greek word, 'Tetelestai', which here refers to the debt of Sin and means 'Paid in Full!' It is in the Perfect tense which describes an action that is completed, once and for all. There is therefore no need for further sacrifices for the atonement of sin.

### Colossians 2:13-14 (Observations)

v13

Circle what you were in your transgressions

Circle He made you with Him.

Circle what He did with our transgressions.

v14

Underline what He cancelled out.

Underline what it consisted of.

Circle what it was to us.

Underline where He has taken it.

Circle where He nailed it.

The '**Certificate of Debt**' was a handwritten, legal document listing the charges against a convicted criminal and the debt that was owed. It was cancelled when, and only when, the guilty person had completely paid the debt owed, or was able to get a free and innocent person to pay for it on his behalf!

(Continued)

**Isaiah was God's chosen Prophet** for many prophecies regarding the *birth*, the *identity* and the *death* of the **Messiah**, some of which we have already looked at and others still to be studied in future lessons. The passage below is only a section of one of the most incredible Old Testament chapters describing the significance of Jesus' death. What makes it more amazing is that it was written *700 years* before He was even born! Knowing this ...

**What does this tell us about the God of the Bible?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**What does this tell us about the events of Jesus' life?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Do you think God has pre-ordained your life? Why or why not?**

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### **Isaiah 53**

- 4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore,  
And our sorrows He carried;  
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,  
Smitten of God, and afflicted.**
- 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions,  
He was crushed for our iniquities;  
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,  
And by His scourging we are healed.**
- 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray,  
Each of us has turned to his own way;  
But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all  
To fall on Him.**

**In your own words, explain what the above passage means.**

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**Rabbis through the ages have taught that the above passage refers to Israel and her suffering. What would you say to them?**

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### **Isaiah 53:4-6 (Observations)**

**v4**

**Circle** what He bore.

**Circle** what He carried.

**Underline** three things we esteemed Him.

**v5**

**Underline** what He was pierced through for.

**Underline** what He was "crushed" for.

**Underline** what "fell upon Him."

**Circle** what we are by His "scourging."

**v6**

**Circle** who are like sheep gone astray.

**Circle** who has turned to his own way.

**Underline** what the LORD has caused.

**The Doctrine of Vicarious Atonement** teaches that Jesus was our **Substitute** when He died on the cross, **taking our place** and **our sins** upon Himself, and **suffering the debt we owed** to God, **even the wrath of God**, and thus **propitiating** or **satisfying the Righteous demands of the Holy God**. Isaiah 53 describes this perfectly, 700 years before its fulfillment! However, the actualization of our Salvation is dependent on our **Faith**, which becomes a **conduit** through which **God pours** upon us His **Mercy, Grace, Forgiveness & a multitude of Blessings!**