

Goal: It is God's way to Sacrifice.

The Once and for All Sacrifice

From the very beginning, it has been God’s way to sacrifice. In Genesis 3, God covered the nakedness and shame of Adam and Eve by sacrifice. Passover was all about sacrifice. Throughout the OT, the Mosaic Law was built on sacrifice. The sins of the people were atoned for and covered by sacrifice. But multiple sacrifices every year could not make sinners righteous – “...it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore...Christ came into the world...” (Hebrews 10:4-5).

The Cross

Historically, you cannot ignore Christ on the cross. No one has ever died like this. No one has ever loved like this. Could it be more than a Sunday School story? You have seen it portrayed in film; I will describe it again today. My eyes cannot miss the love. What do your eyes see? *“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).*

God’s sacrifice...

1. **...was Shocking vv.44, 48.** This same crowd cheered Him one week earlier as He entered their city riding on a donkey. Something has gone horribly wrong.
2. **...was Sovereign v.46.** Obedience to the Father kept Jesus on the cross. He was in control and no one else. The sacrifice was the will of God, for it is God’s way to sacrifice.
3. **...was Significant v.47.** This was no ordinary sacrifice. Its significance is still being felt today when a man or a woman recognizes their need for a Savior and finds one on a cross.

The horror that eventually led to God’s satisfaction transpired outside the city of Jerusalem because He loves you sincerely. **A love demonstrated by...**

- **...His Forgiveness (v.34).** Forgiveness may be one of life’s most precious gifts. It is a strange mystery of humanity, it’s almost impossible to grant, and difficult to accept.
- **...His Reaction (v.41).** One thief believes the other does not. Rather than condemn the one, He instead loves the other. Christ reacts lovingly to those who get it without condemning those who do not.
- **...His Gift (vv.42-43).** No time for the thief to pay for his mistakes – only enough time to ask for something he didn’t deserve. And guess what... he got it. That’s why we call it *“a gift.”*

Family Night – Read Luke 23:32-49

- **Elementary School** – Ask, “How many others were crucified with Jesus? Why didn’t Jesus set Himself free from the cross? Why did Jesus die on the cross? How do you know that Jesus loves you?”
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, “What was the centurion who crucified Jesus saying about Him? How is Jesus’ death a personal gift to you? What difference does His death make to you in your everyday life?”

Prayer: “Father thank You for the sacrifice of Jesus. We want to follow Him with all our hearts. Amen.”

<p>Velocity (Middle and High School Students) Velocity: Meets this Wednesday, April 1st at 6:30. Gravity: NO Gravity today.</p> <p>Today’s Songs <i>Blessed Be Your Name</i>.....Matt Redman <i>Hosanna</i>.....Hillsong <i>I Know a Name</i>.....Brandon Lake</p> <p>Clean-Up Day Thank you to all the men who came and worked outside yesterday. We appreciate you!</p>	<p>Communion Today is Communion and we have open Communion at GCC but please consider the maturity level of your child.</p> <p>Amazonia Summer Camp Summer Camp is June 8-12. If you can help us with camp this year, please fill out the volunteer form and leave at the Welcome Desk.</p> <p>Easter Invite someone to Easter Service on April 5th. We will have both a 9:30 and 11:00 service.</p>
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