

**Matt 26:1-5:** When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, & the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." <sup>3</sup> Then the chief priests & the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, <sup>4</sup> & plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth & kill him. <sup>5</sup> But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people."

**Intro:** We have finished studying Jesus' last formal teaching to His disciples right before He dies. Jesus' last Words were about Heaven & Hell. Now, Jesus again tells His disciples what is going to happen to Him, & that is, of course, teaching too. But the time for teaching with Words is over. Now Jesus is going to show His disciples the gateway to Heaven – how He will save His people from their sins through His death on the cross & resurrection from the dead!

- **1 Corinthians 2:2:** For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

- **Galatians 6:14:** But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ

- **D. A. Carson:** The entire Bible pivots on one weekend in Jerusalem about two thousand years ago.

- **Commentator:** Those who are spiritual habitually turn to the cross, as Paul did in the face of divisions in Corinth in [1 Cor. 1 & 2]. For the cross is where we find Christ's mindset on such behavior.

Be spiritual saints who always turn to the cross & fight to think in the mindset of Christ.

**Philippians 2:5-8:** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

### 1. The Passover Is Coming

**Matt 26:1-2:** When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> "You know that after two days the Passover is coming . . . .

**a. What is the Passover?: Exodus 12:1-13:** The LORD said to Moses & Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup> "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup> Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. <sup>4</sup> And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he & his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. <sup>5</sup> Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, <sup>6</sup> & you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. <sup>7</sup> Then they shall take some of the blood & put it on the two doorposts & the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup> They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread & bitter herbs they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup> Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs & its inner parts. <sup>10</sup> And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup> In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, & your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. <sup>12</sup> For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, & I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man & beast; & on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup> The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, & no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

- **Deuteronomy 16:1:** keep the Passover to the LORD your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night.

- **Hebrews 11:28:** By faith he [Moses] kept the Passover & sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

**b. Jesus is our Passover: 1 Corinthians 5:7:** Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. GOSPEL!

- **D. A. Carson Illust.:** the answer is neither. Because death doesn't pass over them on the ground of the intensity or the clarity of the faith exercised. But on the ground of the blood of the Lamb. That's what silences the accuser.

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## **2. The Son Of Man Will Be Delivered Up To Be Crucified**

**Matt 26:1-4:** When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, & the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." <sup>3</sup> Then the chief priests & the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, <sup>4</sup> & plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth & kill him.

**a. Jesus told His disciples what would happen to Him:** Jesus told them: "After two days, as the Passover comes, the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." This is the 4<sup>th</sup> (8<sup>th</sup>!) & final time Jesus tells them this! And Jesus willingly walks into this horrific suffering! Jesus has no fear of man whatsoever in the least bit!

Jesus told His disciples that He's going to die over & over again in Matthew's Gospel. And God has told His people this, over & over again in the Old Testament: **Genesis 3:15:** I will put enmity between you & the woman, & between your offspring & her offspring; he shall bruise your head, & you shall bruise his heel.

- **Genesis 22:13:** Abraham lifted up his eyes & looked, & behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went & took the ram & offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

- **Passover; Psalm 16; Psalm 22; Isaiah 53:4-5:** Surely he has borne our griefs & carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, & afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, & with his stripes we are healed.

**b. Jesus was intensely hated:** They are going to crucify Him! They want to arrest Him & kill Him! They fear that because of Him, the Romans would come & take away their place & nation (John 11:48). They don't like being called out for their sin by Jesus! And they believe He is blaspheming their God:

- **John 5:17-18:** But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, & I am working." <sup>18</sup> This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

- **John 8:58-59:** Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." <sup>59</sup> So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself & went out of the temple.

**c. Their hatred and scheming was foretold: Psalm 31:13:** For I hear the whispering of many – terror on every side! - as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

**d. The Jewish leaders made wicked plans, but God's good purposes will always stand: Proverbs 19:21:** Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

Jesus says here He will be crucified in two days. The Jewish leaders say not during the feast (Passover). Whose plans stand? The God-Man's! Judas would betray Jesus secretly. The Lamb of God would take away sin!

**e. Who killed Jesus Christ?:** In V. 2, Jesus told His disciples that He would "be delivered up to be crucified." Who delivered Him up? In the next verses (Vs. 3-4), we see: **Vs. 3-4:** Then the chief priests & the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, <sup>4</sup> & plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth & kill him.

So one answer is that the chief priests & the elders of the people & the high priest, Caiaphas, (the Jewish leaders) killed Jesus. But more murderers are involved. Judas! The Jews cried out for Jesus to be crucified. They chose Jesus over Barabbas. Pilate killed Jesus. The Romans killed Jesus. All of us killed Jesus! Our sin, your sin killed Jesus. All of us killed Jesus for sinful, wicked purposes. But there is One Who killed Jesus for redemptive purposes!

**f. God killed His own Son on that cross:** God killed His own Son in two different ways: 1) As the first cause of all things & 2) As the propitiation for our sins:

1) God killed Jesus Christ as the first cause of all things: God is the first cause of everything that happens in this world. God ordains "whatsoever comes to pass."

- **Isaiah 46:9-10:** remember the former things of old; for I am God, & there is no other; I am God, & there is none like me, <sup>10</sup> declaring the end from the beginning & from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, & I will accomplish all my purpose,'

- **Psalm 139:16:** Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them.

- **Ephesians 1:11:** works all things according to the counsel of his will

**a) Think of Joseph's life: Psalm 105:16-17:** When he summoned a famine on the land & broke all supply of bread, <sup>17</sup> he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

- **Genesis 50:19-20:** Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

**b) Think of Job's life: Job 1:12:** the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

- **Job 1:21-22:** "Naked I came from my mother's womb, & naked shall I return. The LORD gave, & the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." <sup>22</sup> In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

**c) Think of Jesus' life: Acts 2:22-23:** Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works & wonders & signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know - <sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan & foreknowledge of God, you crucified & killed by the hands of lawless men

- **Acts 4:27-28:** for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod & Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles & the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup> to do whatever your hand & your plan had predestined to take place.

If God is the first cause, working behind the scenes for our good, in the midst of this greatest evil ever carried out by the hands of men, (the crucifixion of the Son of God), then how much more is He at work behind the scenes, in the midst of the trials, sufferings, heartaches, sins, failures, losses in your life? He is at work! For your good!

2) God killed Jesus Christ for the propitiation of our sins: God killed His own Son on the cross for our salvation! He punished His own Son in our place by counting our sins to Jesus – imputing our sins to Jesus – & then punishing Jesus because of our sins!

- **2 Corinthians 5:21:** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- **Isaiah 53:4:** we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted

- **Isaiah 53:10:** Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him

- **Zechariah 13:7:** "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me," declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered"

- **John 3:16:** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

- **Romans 3:24-25:** Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood
- **Galatians 3:13:** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us — for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"
- **Romans 8:32:** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all . . .
- **Matt 26:39:** My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.
- **Matt 27:46:** My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

God struck and smote His Son — to death.  
 God crushed His Son — to death.  
 God gave His Son — to death.  
 God put His Son forward — to death.  
 God made His Son a curse and cursed Him — to death.  
 God did not spare His own Son but gave Him up — to death.  
 God gave His Son the cup of wrath — to death.  
 God forsook His Son — to death.  
 God did this. God killed Jesus.

- **Octavius Winslow:** Who delivered up Jesus to die? Not Judas, for money; not Pilate, for fear; not the Jews, for envy – but the Father, for love!
- **Charles Spurgeon:** The death of Christ is traceable to God the Father . . . O! can ye tell the greatness of that love, which made the everlasting God not only put his Son upon the altar, but actually do the deed, and thrust the sacrificial knife into his Son's heart? Can you think how overwhelming must have been the love of God toward the human race, when he completed in act what Abraham only did in intention? Look ye there, and see the place where his only Son hung dead upon the cross, the bleeding victim of awakened justice! Here is love indeed; and here we see how it was, that it pleased the Father to bruise him.
- **Herman Bavinck:** God condemned sin in his flesh [Rom. 8:3] & punished him with the accursed death on the cross & that through him we now receive reconciliation & forgiveness, righteousness & life, indeed total & complete salvation
- **Stephen Wellum:** Texts such as Isaiah 53:10, John 3:16, Romans 8:32, & Jesus's prayer in Gethsemane & his cry from the cross, all teach that the Father deliberately sacrificed his Son for us . . . How is the Father justified in what he did at Calvary? What gave him the right to sacrifice his own Son? Two points require emphasis. First, Scripture presents the action of God the Father as a priest offering the sacrifice of his only Son, as a demonstration of his love, justice, & righteousness. Second, given the Trinitarian personal relations, the act of the Father also involves the active involvement of the Son and the Spirit, who together, & according to their mode of personal relations, act as the one God to redeem us.

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

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### **3. The Fear Of Man And The Cross Of Christ**

**Matt 26:5:** But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people."

- a. There is a good concern for how people will respond to your words & actions:** We don't want to fear man, but we do want to love man! God commands us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.
- b. But there is a fear of man that is sin:** There is a kind of fear of man that makes you a slave to men's opinions.

**Matt 21:26:** But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet."

**Matt 21:46:** although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet

**John 5:44:** How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another & do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

**Ed Welch (*When People Are Big and God is Small: Overcoming Peer Pressure, Codependency, and the Fear of Man*):** 1. Have you ever struggled with peer pressure? “Peer pressure” is simply a euphemism for the fear of man.

2. Are you over-committed? Do you find it hard to say no when wisdom indicates that you should? You are a “people-pleaser,” another euphemism for the fear of man.

3. Do you “need” something from your spouse? Do you “need” your spouse to listen to you? Respect you? Unless you understand the biblical parameters of marital commitment, your spouse will become the one you fear. Your spouse will control you. Your spouse will quietly take the place of God in your life.

4. Is self-esteem a critical concern for you? This, at least in the United States, is the most popular way the fear of other people is expressed.

5. Do you ever feel as if you might be exposed as an impostor? The sense of being exposed is an expression of the fear of man.

6. Are you always second-guessing decisions because of what other people might think? Are you afraid of making mistakes that will make you look bad in other people’s eyes?

7. Do you feel empty or meaningless? Do you experience “love hunger?” If you need others to fill you, you are controlled by them.

8. Do you get easily embarrassed? If so, people and their perceived opinions probably define you.

9. Do you ever lie, especially the little white lies? What about cover-ups where you are not technically lying with your mouth? Lying and other forms of living in the dark are usually ways to make ourselves look better before people.

10. Are you jealous of other people? You are controlled by them and their possessions.

11. Do other people often make you angry or depressed? Are they making you crazy? If so, they are probably the controlling center of your life.

12. Do you avoid people? If so, even though you might not say that you need people, you are still controlled by them

13. Aren’t most diets, even when they are ostensibly under the heading of “health,” dedicated to impressing others? The desire for the “praise of man” is one of the ways we exalt people over God.

14. Have all these descriptions missed the mark? When you compare yourself with other people, do you feel good about yourself? Perhaps the most dangerous form of the fear of man is the “successful fear of man.” Such people have more than others. They feel good about themselves. But their lives are still defined by other people rather than God.

**Alfred Poirier** (*The Cross And Criticism*): The cross of Christ reminds me that the Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me. And because of this, God has thoroughly and forever accepted me in Christ . . . What a sure foundation for the soul! Now, I don't practice self-justification, but boasting – boasting about Christ's righteousness for me. If you truly take this to heart, the whole world can stand against you, denounce you, or criticize you, and you will be able to reply, "If God has justified me, who can condemn me?" "If God justifies me, accepts me, and will never forsake me, then why should I feel insecure and fear criticism?" "Christ took my sins, and I receive His Spirit. Christ takes my condemnation, and I receive His righteousness." **In light of God's judgment and**

**justification of the sinner in the cross of Christ, we can begin to discover how to deal with any and all criticism. By agreeing with God's criticism of me in Christ's cross, I can face any criticism man may lay against me. In other words, no one can criticize me more than the cross has. And the most devastating criticism turns out to be the finest mercy.** If you thus know yourself as having been crucified with Christ, then you can respond to any criticism, even mistaken or hostile criticism, without bitterness, defensiveness, or blame-shifting. Such responses typically . . . intensify conflict, and lead to the rupture of relationships. You can learn to hear criticism as constructive and not [condemning] because God has justified you.

- **Matthew 10:28:** And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

- **Matthew 22:15-16:** Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his talk. <sup>16</sup> And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true & teach the way of God truthfully, & you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances."

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**Philippians 2:3-11:** Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Christ Jesus Would Be Crucified  
Passover Lamb Who's Killed And Died  
Who Killed Him? Truths We Must Not Hide  
Herod And Pilate Did Preside  
Jew And Gentile Hate Allied  
And All Our Sin And Evil Pride  
At The Cross Did All Collide  
But Over All It's God Who'd Guide  
It's God Who Killed His Son Who Cried  
"My God! My God! Forsaken!" Died  
Christ Bore God's Wrath, The Crucified  
Then Rose Alive And Death Defied  
By Faith Alone We're Justified  
By His Spirit Sanctified  
And By His Power Die To Pride  
We Cast All Fear Of Man Aside  
Becoming Christ's Pure, Spotless Bride  
Our Joy And All: Christ Crucified!