

Matt. 27:46-50: And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷ & some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." ⁴⁸ & one of them at once ran & took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, & put it on a reed & gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰ & Jesus cried out again with a loud voice & yielded up his spirit.

Intro: 1 Cor. 2:2: For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ & Him crucified.

- **Gal. 6:14:** But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ (**Love! Love! Love!**)

In an essay called "The Most Important Doctrine" on 1 Cor. 2:2, **J. C. Ryle wrote:** There is no doctrine in Christianity so important as the doctrine of Christ crucified. There is none which the devil tries so hard to destroy. There is none which it is so needful for our own peace to understand. [God was pleased with Jesus on the cross!]

Jesus was treated like a disowned son on that cross, so that you might be adopted as God's sons & daughters forever! Jesus was truly & objectively forsaken by God on that cross so that you will never be forsaken by God for all eternity! God was angry with Jesus on that cross, so that He will never be angry with you but delight in you for all eternity! On that cross, Jesus endured the damnation of God that you deserve, so that you will never face damnation! And last week we considered some applications from the cross.

Today we move forward in Matthew's Gospel, but we continue to consider the death of Jesus on the cross. & in the verses we meditate on today, we actually see Jesus die. Jesus died for you, so that you may live forever & never die!

1. They Thought Jesus Was Crying For Elijah

Matt. 27:47-49: & some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." ⁴⁸ & one of them at once ran & took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, & put it on a reed & gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

a. Why did they think Jesus was crying out for Elijah?: Same sound?; Elijah never died so they thought Jesus was calling out for Elijah to come & save Him: **2 Ki. 2:1, 11:** when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah & Elisha were on their way from Gilgal . . . ¹¹ & as they still went on & talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. & Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

- **D. A. Carson:** Some Jewish tradition, perhaps as old as the first century, held that [Elijah] would come & rescue the righteous in their distress.

- **Nick Batzig:** They thought Jesus was crying out for Elijah to save Him. The irony is that Jesus came to save Elijah! The only reason Elijah would not die & ascend into heaven is that Jesus died for Elijah's sins!

b. They gave Jesus sour wine: An act of mercy or mockery – I think mockery. Yet, in the mockery, Jesus is fulfilling God's Word: **Ps. 69:21:** for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.

2. Jesus Died

Matt. 27:50: And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice & yielded up his spirit.

a. Jesus yielded up His spirit, showing He is truly God: Jesus yielded up His spirit! Jesus chose when to lay down His life! Even on the cross, Jesus is in sovereign control! Jesus is always the Alpha Male! He is God!

- **Jn. 10:17-18:** For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, & I have authority to take it up again.

- **D. A. Carson:** Matthew's "he gave up his spirit" ("spirit" here is equivalent to "life") suggests Jesus' sovereignty over the exact time of his own death. It was at this moment, when he was experiencing the abyss of his alienation from the Father & was being cruelly mocked by those he came to serve, that he chose to yield his life as a "ransom for many"

b. Jesus yielded up His spirit, showing He is truly man: Jesus died! Men die! Jesus was a man Who died! His heart stopped beating! Blood stopped circulating through His veins! His organs shut down! His body went cold & limp! Rigor mortis set in all over His body! He has a soul/spirit & a body! Jesus was truly a man Who died.

The Person of Jesus did not die on the cross according to His divine nature because God cannot die. But Jesus died! The Person of Jesus died on the cross according to His human nature!

Acts 3:13-15: The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, & the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over & denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴ But you denied the Holy & Righteous One, & asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ & **you killed the Author of life**, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

c. Jesus died because the wages of sin is death: According to God, sinners deserves death for their sin:

- 1) God gave the death penalty to Adam & Eve for eating the forbidden fruit: **Gen. 2:16-17:** the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
- 2) After the flood, God instructed Noah to carry out the death penalty: **Gen. 9:6:** Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.
- 3) Under God's perfect, righteous, holy law, He commanded the death penalty for numerous offenses, over & over again: **Exod. 21:17:** Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death.
- 4) God carried out the death penalty directly, over & over again, on His enemies & the enemies of Israel: Noah's flood; Canaanites; Assyrians, etc.
- 5) God carried out the death penalty on His own people for their sin: **Gen. 38:7:** But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD put him to death; Nadab & Abihu; Uzzah
- 6) Every time someone dies in this world (about 65 million per year), God testifies His approval of the death penalty (the wages of sin is death).
- 7) In the New Testament Church, God carried out the death penalty on Ananias & Sapphira (Acts 5).
- 8) In the New Testament, God carried out the death penalty on Christians in Corinth who were misusing the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11).
- 9) The Apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit of God, said that if he had done anything deserving of death, then he should die: **Acts 25:11:** If then I am a wrongdoer & have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death.
- 10) The Spirit of God, through Paul, proclaims that the power of the sword is given to the state (Rom. 13).
- 11) There will be eternal death for those who refuse to trust Jesus: **Rev. 20:14-15:** Then Death & Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. & if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

We all deserve eternal death for our sin. Flee to Christ & be saved!

- **Gen. 3:21:** the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins & clothed them.
- **Lev. 1:4-5:** He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, & it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him. Then he shall kill the bull before the LORD, & Aaron's sons the priests shall bring the blood & throw the blood against the sides of the altar that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting.
- **Rom. 6:23:** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord **GOSPEL!**

Jesus took our wages! Jesus paid our debt! Jesus died in our place! We deserve to die, but Jesus died for us!

Jesus died for you, so that you may live forever & never die!

d. Jesus died to take away our sins: Rom. 6:10: For the death he died he died to sin, once for all.

- **John Piper:** That is, Christ really died, & when he died he dealt with sin so completely that his death never has to be repeated. It is once for all. He took care of the sin problem for all who are in him.

- **Jn. 1:29:** The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

- **Matt. 1:21:** She will bear a son, & you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

e. Jesus died so that we shall never die or be condemned: Rom. 8:33-34: Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

- **Jn. 11:25-26:** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Jesus was forsaken so that we will never be forsaken by the One Who matters most!

Jesus cried with a loud voice like no one has ever cried before so that we would never cry again but have all tears wiped from our eyes someday!

Jesus was left alone so that we might have fellowship with God where there's fullness of joy & pleasures forevermore!

Jesus was left thirsty so that we might be filled with living waters!

Jesus was left like a worm & no man so that we might be conformed into the image of Christ as a son or daughter of the King of kings!

Jesus was not rescued so that we might be rescued from sin, death, & hell!

Jesus was put to shame so that we might never experience shame again!

Jesus was scorned & despised so that we might be accepted & loved forever with a better love than we could ever dream or imagine!

He was mocked so that God might rejoice over us with great shouts of joyous songs!

Jesus breathed His last & died so that we could live in unimaginable joy & bliss for all eternity!

f. Jesus died so that He is Lord of the dead: Rom. 14:9: For to this end Christ died & lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead & of the living.

Jesus is Lord of all! Jesus is God! He rules & reigns over all the dead & over all the living – He reigns over all!

Jesus died for you, so that you may live forever & never die!

g. Jesus died so that we might no longer live for ourselves but live for Jesus: 2 Cor. 5:14-15: For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ & he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died & was raised.

h. Jesus died so that we might not endure God's wrath but be saved & live with Jesus: 1 Thess. 5:9-10: For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

i. Jesus died so that He might conquer death once & for all: Rev. 1:17-18: When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first & the last, ¹⁸ & the living one. I died, & behold I am alive forevermore, & I have the keys of Death & Hades.

Jesus died for you, so that you may live forever & never die!

j. Jesus died to destroy the devil & his works & to free us from the fear of death: Heb. 2:14-15: Since therefore the children share in flesh & blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ & deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

- **1 Jn. 3:8:** The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

k. Jesus died, fulfilling His own Words & the Words of the prophets: Matt. 20:18-19: we are going up to Jerusalem. & the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests & scribes, & they will condemn him to death & deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked & flogged & crucified, & he will be raised on the third day.
- Isa. 53:8-10: By oppression & judgment he was taken away; & as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹ & they made his grave with the wicked & with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, & there was no deceit in his mouth.
¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.
- Lk. 24:44-47: Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses & the Prophets & the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ & said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer & on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ & that repentance & forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

l. Jesus finished redemption, died, & He went to be with His Father in Paradise: Jn. 19:30: When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," & he bowed his head & gave up his spirit.
- Lk. 23:46: Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" & having said this he breathed his last.
- Lk. 23:39-43: One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ & we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² & he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ & he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Horatius Bonar: Upon a life I did not live; Upon a death I did not die; Another's death, Another's life; I stake my whole eternity.

m. Jesus died so that there will be no more death forever: Rev. 21:3-4: I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, & they will be his people, & God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, **& death shall be no more**, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Jesus died for you, so that you may live forever & never die!

Christ Was Forsaken Then He Died
 Gave Up His Spirit As He Cried
 He's Truly Man The Crucified
 He Paid For Each Sin Of His Bride
 The Wages Of Our Sin Applied
 All Sin Is Dealt With Death Defied
 No Charges Stick! We're Justified!
 Christ Rose – He's LORD Of All Worldwide
 We're Changed For Now Christ Lives Inside
 We Live For Him, In Him Abide
 With Him Forever By His Side
 With Him The Keys Of Death Reside
 The Devil's Crushed And Death It Died
 For Christ Fulfilled God's Word Our Guide
 In Paradise He's Glorified
 For Christ Is All And He'll Provide
 All We Need Because He Died!