

The Treasures of the Cross: Part One

April 19, 2020

Introduction: Talking about the cross during Eastertide?

Resurrection insures the success of the cross' work: 1 Cor 15:3 with 15:17

There is SO much depth to what happened on the cross

The danger with being content with sound bites

The possibility of perpetuating distortions

A long theological sermon in six parts: a different sort of animal

The unique gift of the video format offers the possibility of pause and review

This series might seem lacking in "practical application"

How we think affects our priorities, our attitudes, our actions, our words

This might feel more like "teaching" over "preaching"

Two conversation partners, beside the Bible:

The Day the Revolution Began by N.T. Wright

Biblical Theology by John Goldingay

Hoped for outcome 1: deepened worship (gratitude, admiration, praise, and trust)

Hoped for outcome 2: more effective articulate witness of Jesus' person and work

All Good Studies Begin with Questions

- What problem was actually being solved by the solution of the cross?
- Why did it require the death of Jesus?
- Why did it require the kind of horrible death that Jesus ended up dying?
- How does the death of Jesus fit into the rest of the Gospel ministry of Jesus?
- What is the connection between the cross and the coming of the kingdom?
- What transactions actually transpired at the cross?
- Was Jesus rescuing us from a malignant power at the cost of his own life?
- If so, what malignant powers and how did we become enslaved?
- Was Jesus being punished for something we did so we could be let off the hook?
- Did God's anger against humans need to be pacified?
- And if so, why would the death of Jesus His Son pacify His anger?
- Is it possible to reconcile the wrath of God and the love of God? How?
- Does the cross split Jesus and the Father on two sides of the issue?
- Is death a punishment for sin or a natural consequence of sin?
- Was Jesus death like an OT sacrifice that cleansed and purified us?
- If so, how do we not confuse this with pagan human sacrifice?
- How does blood work as a cleansing agent?
- Did Jesus' death somehow restore God's offended honor to God?
- If so, why would the God of the universe need an offense to His honor restituted?
- Did Jesus' death pay something back to God that we could not pay? If so, what?

- **What are your questions? Email me at jeff@highlandcovenant.com**

Starting Points

What can we know for sure upon reading the Gospel stories?

Not dogmatic claims about the meaning of the death

Meanings are in the story itself.

A Quick Survey of What the Gospel Writers say directly related to the cross:

Matthew:

He will save people from their sins: **1:21**

Must suffer and die: **16:21;17:22,23; 20:17-19:**

Father's will, cannot pass: **26:42**

Lord's Supper:

the blood of the covenant poured out for many the forgiveness of sins: **26:26-29**

All authority has been given to Me: **28:18**

Mark:

Must suffer and die: **8:31; 9:30-31; 10:32-34**

Give His life as a ransom for many: **10:45**

Father's will, cannot pass: **14:36**

Last Supper: blood of the covenant poured out for many: **14:24**

Luke:

A Savior: **2:12**

Must suffer and die: **9:21-22, 44; 18:31-33; 24:7,8**

Necessary for the Christ to suffer and enter His glory: **24:26**

Father's will, cannot pass: **22:42**

The baptism He must undergo: **12:50**

New covenant in my blood: **22:20**

Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets He interpreted in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself: **24:27**

Repentance and forgiveness proclaimed in His name: **24:47**

Acts:

Definite plan of God: **2:23**

Death couldn't hold Him: **2:23,24**

Releasing the Holy Spirit: **2:33**

Repent and be baptized for forgiveness of sins, gift of the Holy Spirit: **2:38**

Your sins may be blotted out: **3:19**

The times of refreshing and the restoration of all things might come: **3:20**

Has become the cornerstone, salvation in Him alone: **4:11-12**

Leader and Savior, to give repentance forgiveness of sin: **5:31**

Appointed to be judge of living and dead, forgiveness of sins: **10:42**

Forgiveness of sins in proclaimed, freed in a way the Law couldn't do: **13:38-40**

He will judge the world: **17:31**

John:

The Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world: **1:29**

The temple of His body, raising it up in three days: **2:19**

Moses lifted up the serpent: **3:14**

God gave His only Son: **3:16**

Eat my flesh, drink my blood: **6:51 ff**

I am going away: **8:21**

I lay down my life for the sheep: **10:15-18**

One man should die for the people: **11:50**

The cross as Jesus' glory: **12:23,27-29**

Ruler of this world cast out: **12:31**

It is finished: **19:30**

Receive the Holy Spirit: **20:22**

Forgive the sins of anyone: **20:23**

Summary of Starting Point Themes by Simply Reading Though Matthew- Acts

A. The cross was absolutely necessary and it stands at the center of our story.

B. The cross was voluntary and intentional and purposeful.

C. There is some kind of rescue, saving, ransoming going on.

D. The cross deals with sins somehow and provides forgiveness.

E. The cross is connected to the Passover, the New Covenant and fulfills the OT

F. The cross was a victory of authority for Jesus

Summary of Starting Point Themes by Simply Reading Though Matthew- Acts

A. The cross was absolutely necessary and it stands at the center of our story.

Must suffer and die: **Matt 16:21;17:22,23; 20:17-19;**

Father's will, cannot pass: **Matt 26:42**

The baptism He must undergo: **Luke 12:50**

Necessary for the Christ to suffer and enter His glory: **Luke 24:26**

Definite plan of God: Acts **2:23**

B. The cross was voluntary and intentional and purposeful.

Give His life as a ransom for many: **Mark 10:45**

I am going away: **John 8:21**

I lay down my life for the sheep: **John 10:15-18**

C. There is some kind of rescue, saving, ransoming going on.

He will save people from their sins: **Matt 1:21**

Give His life as a ransom for many: **Mark 10:45**

A Savior, Who is Christ the Lord!: **Luke 2:12**

I lay down my life for the sheep: **John 10:15-18**

Has become the cornerstone, salvation in Him alone: **Acts 4:11-12**

D. The cross deals with sins somehow and provides forgiveness.

He will save people from their sins: **Matt 1:21**

The blood poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins: **Matt 26:26-29**

Repentance and forgiveness proclaimed in His name: **Luke 24:47**

The Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world: **John 1:29**

Moses lifted up the serpent: **John 3:14**

Forgive the sins of anyone: **John 20:23**

Repent and be baptized for forgiveness of sins: **Acts 2:38, 10:42, 13:38-40**

Your sins may be blotted out: **Acts 3:19**

E. The cross is connected to the Passover, the New Covenant and fulfills the OT

The blood of the covenant poured out for many...: **Matt 26:26-29**

Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets...**Luke 24:27**

The Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world: John **1:29**

The temple of His body, raising it up in three days: **John 2:19**

Definite plan of God: **Acts 2:23**

The times of refreshing and the restoration of all things might come: **Acts 3:20**

F. The cross was a victory of authority for Jesus

All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Me: **Matt 28:18**

The cross as Jesus' glory: **John 12:23,27-29**

Ruler of this world cast out: **John 12:31**

It is finished: John **19:30**

Death couldn't hold Him: **Acts 2:23,24**

The times of refreshing and the restoration of all things might come: **Acts 3:20**

Appointed to be judge of living and dead: **10:42, 17:31**