

The Parish of Wellow

Searching Issues

Why did Jesus Die?

Passage, Sermon Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these sermon notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during next week to consider the questions below.

1. Sermon Passage

Isaiah 53:3-7

3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

2. Sermon Notes

2.1 Introduction

'For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.' 1 Corinthians 2:2

The Apostle Paul clearly states that the Cross lies at the heart of the Christian faith

2.2. The Problem

The Prophet Isaiah and the Apostle Paul summarise our problem perfectly:

'We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way' Isaiah 53:6

'For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.' Romans 3:23

Results of sin:

- i. Pollution of Sin - "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' Mark 7:21-23
- ii. Power of Sin - Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. John 8:34
- iii. Penalty of Sin - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23
- iv. Partition of Sin - But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:2

2.3 The Solution

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24

John Stott has described this as 'The self-substitution of God'. - Jesus, the Son of God came as our substitute.

Jesus endured crucifixion for us:

- After being flogged and having a crown of thorns thrust onto his head.
- Jesus was forced to carry a heavy cross bar to the site of his crucifixion.

- He was stripped naked. He was laid on the cross, and six-inch nails were driven into his forearms, just above his wrist.
 - His knees were twisted sideways so that the ankles could be nailed between the tibia and the Achilles' tendon.
 - He was lifted up on the cross which was then dropped into a socket in the ground.
 - He hung there in unthinkable pain for six hours while his life slowly drained away.
 - It was the height of pain and the depth of shame.
- i. He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him. Isaiah 53:5
- ii. The LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6

That is why Jesus cries out on the cross 'my God, my God' why have you forsaken me, because on the cross Jesus was carrying your sin and my sin in order to put us in a position to come back into relationship with God.

2.4 The Result

21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished--

26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Romans 3:21-26

Four Images:

- A. The Law Court - Penalty of sin paid. - 'justified freely by his grace.' Romans 3:24
- B. The Market Place - Power of sin broken - 'the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.' Romans 3:24
- C. The Temple - Pollution of sin removed - 'God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood' - Romans 3:25
- D. The Home - Reconciliation - Partition of sin destroyed - 'God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them' 2 Corinthians 5:19

2.4 Conclusion

He died for you and me - it is very personal - I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

3. Questions to consider back at home

3.1 A colleague at work one day says to you "I lead a good life, I am perfectly happy, why do I need religion in my life?" How would you respond?

3.2 Would you agree with Paul and Isaiah when they say: 'All have sinned' and 'we all like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way'?

3.3 A friend says to you "What does it matter if we all sin. Surely that makes us all as bad as each other?" How would you respond?

3.4 'For the wages of sin is death.' What is Paul trying to explain here?

3.5 What does John Stott mean by the 'The self-substitution of God'?

3.6 Why does Jesus cry out on the cross 'my God, my God' why have you forsaken me?' (Mark 27:46)

3.7 At a Good Friday dinner party someone remarks that they cannot understand why people in this day and age want to remember the death of some poor wandering Jew who died 2000 years ago. How would you respond?

3.8 Paul says that through Christ's death 'we have been justified' (Romans 5: 1) what does this mean?

If you would like to discuss these questions further please feel free to call me on 01761 432293