

He Chose the Cross For You

1. Who is Jesus? He's the son of God, the promised Messiah.

*"Tell us who you are," they demanded. Jesus replied, "I am the one I have always claimed to be... when you have killed the Messiah, then you will realize that I am he." **John 8:25, 28 TLB***

God replied to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. Say this.. I Am has sent me to you." **Exodus 3:14 NLT**

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

2. Why did He come? He came to save us from our sins.

*"He has forgiven all our sins... and cancelled every record of the debt we owed; Christ has done away with it by nailing it to the cross." **Colossians 2:14 JB***

The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life...No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." **John 10:17-18 NIV**

*"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one can get to God the Father except by means of me." **John 14:6 TLB***

3. What did He go through?

Jesus was betrayed. Matthew 26:1-3, 50.

Jesus surrenders to God's will for him to die. Matthew 26:39.

Jesus was falsely accused. Matthew 26:59-64.

They spit in Jesus face and beat him. Matthew 26:67.

They mocked him. Matthew 26:67.

He was flogged with a lead tipped whip. Matthew 27:26.

They stripped him. Matthew 27:28.

They forced a thorny crown onto his head. Matthew 27:29.

They taunted him saying "Hail! King of the Jews!" Matthew 27:29.

They spit on him and struck him with a stick. Matthew 27:30.

They made Jesus carry his own cross. Matthew 27:32.

They offered him wine with bitter gall. He refused it. Matthew 27:34

*"Jesus was then **offered ... wine ... mixed with gall**, a **drink** given to dull the senses and make the pain of crucifixion somewhat easier to bear. Jesus **refused to drink** the mixture, for He wanted to be in complete control of His senses even while hanging on the cross." -Bible Knowledge Commentary.*

They nailed his hands and feet to the cross. Matthew 27:35.

They gambled away his clothes. Matthew 27:35.

They fastened a sign above his head saying "King of the Jews." Matthew 27:37.

They taunted and shouted at Jesus. Matthew 27:39-44.

The sky went dark at noon till 3pm the next day. Matthew 27:45

God the Father pulled away. "My God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46

With one last cry, Jesus gave up his spirit. He died. Matthew 27:50

4. Why do we celebrate Easter? Because He then rose again!

..at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. **Matthew 28:1-6 NIV**

5. Why should I care? He gives us forgiveness, eternity and victory!

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. **Ephesians 1:7 NIV**

Jesus said, "I am the one who raises the dead and gives them life again! Anyone who believes in me, even though he dies shall live again. He is given eternal life for believing in me and shall never perish." **John 11:25-26a TLB**

Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. John 19:30b NIV

When Jesus said "it is finished" (tetelestai) he meant three things..

(1) (in business) Your debt is fully paid

(2) (legal system). Your sentence has been fully served.

(3) (military). The battle has been fully won.

6. What should I do? Decide to receive Christ.

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." **Romans 10:9 NLT**

Message Notes: The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, New International Version. The Living Bible, paraphrased edition. The JB Phillips New Testament.