

Why did Jesus go to the Cross?

MARK 10:41-45

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. **42** So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. **43** Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, **44** and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. **45** For **even the Son of Man** did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

HEBREWS 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. **2** **Let us fix our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, **2** make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. **4** Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. **5** **Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:**

- 6** Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
- 7** but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
- 8** And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself
and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!
- 9** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
- 10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- 11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.



What do the passages have in common?

What answers do the passages give to the question, "Why did Jesus go to the cross?"

Why did Jesus go to the Cross?	Why do we choose to make sacrifices and even suffer in ministry?	How do we see this at work in our ministry calling?
<p>For <input type="text"/>: "As a ransom for many."</p>	<p>For <input type="text"/>: Our "death" in ministry is not substitutionary - it doesn't save anyone. Yet others have real needs - emotional, physical, spiritual - and we can serve and meet these needs in God's name and with his resources in a way that people are truly helped.</p>	
<p>For <input type="text"/>: "For the joy set before him."</p>	<p>For <input type="text"/>: Jesus is the pioneer of our faith in that he lived the life we are called to live, with our eyes fixed not on the suffering and pain, but on the joy beyond it. Jesus calls us into this life so that we would experience his joy (John 15:11).</p>	
<p>For <input type="text"/>: "To the glory of God the father."</p>	<p>For <input type="text"/>: God indeed is glorified as others see the gratitude and adoration we have for him because of his goodness to us. His goodness is seen not just in saving us, but in calling us into a life of ministry, in which deep joy and blessing is found.</p>	

God's Economy

Jesus suffered and died so that our small-scale inconvenience and suffering could be made meaningful. It is not true that Jesus died so that we don't have to. Rather, Jesus died so that our "death" could be like his: . In this way, we in the economy of God: others are served, we are blessed, God is glorified.

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← Jesus=God
 ← servant=man
 ← obedient to death on cross.
 The dramatic descent of Jesus.
 Therefore he ascended to the highest exaltation!

Therefore: v6-8 are the reason for v9-11: God exalted him because he, by faith, was obedient to death on the cross.

Jesus was God before he became human and died, but his name wasn't on everyone's lips as LORD. Jesus didn't simply get exalted back into place as equal with God; he was given the name YHWH.

"to the glory of God the Father": Because of God's commitment to his own glory, he honors those who serve his name.



What do the passages have in common?

- They all fix our focus on Jesus, his choice to give his life, and a call to us to think and live as Jesus did. Jesus is explicitly a model in each passage.
- The last two describe Jesus' exaltation as a result of his choice to die; the first implies it (serve to become great... even the Son of Man).
- They all display a contrasting way of thinking (lording over, sin that easily entangles, look not to your own interests) and call us to reject that in favor of Jesus' way
- They all speak about the benefit of following Jesus in this way: servanthood leads to exaltation, for Jesus and for his disciples

We put limits on the cost we will pay for obedience. Jesus' obedience goes past the point of being "reasonable."

What answers do the passages give to the question, "Why did Jesus go to the cross?"

1. For others: "As a ransom for many."
2. For himself: "For the joy set before him."
3. For God: "To the glory of God the father."

Jesus' Cross and our Ministry

Why did Jesus go to the Cross?	Why do we choose to make sacrifices and even suffer in ministry?	How do we see this at work in our ministry calling?
<p>For Others: "As a ransom for many." Each of these passages tells us to think and act in our lives with Jesus as a model: we learn servanthood from his model, we fix our eyes on the pioneer of our faith, and we adopt Christ's mindset and live as he does.</p> <p>He did for people, indeed for us, what we could not do for ourselves: he bought us back from the grip and impending penalty of sin. He "died that death may die."</p>	<p>For Others: Our "death" in ministry is not substitutionary - it doesn't save anyone. Yet others have real needs - emotional, physical, spiritual - and we can serve and meet these needs in God's name and with his resources in a way that people are truly helped.</p>	<p>[open discussion filling out this column from people's experience]</p> <p>Specific needs met: friendship, hope, basic needs, belonging, relationship with God, etc.</p>
<p>For Himself: "For the joy set before him." Jesus drank the cup of sorrows, despising the suffering itself, for the sake of the joy set before him. He would not be the loser in the deal—indeed he understood that losing was the path to gaining.</p>	<p>For Ourselves: Jesus is the pioneer of our faith in that he lived the life we are called to live, with our eyes fixed not on the suffering and pain, but on the joy beyond it. Jesus calls us into this life so that we would experience his joy (John 15:11).</p>	<p>We see God at work in others and experience deep joy, we are honored for our service or are welcomed into homes; we experience meaningfulness and purpose in our ministry efforts.</p>
<p>For God: "To the glory of God the father." This process, whereby there are no losers, where everyone wins, displays the goodness, wisdom and mercy of God the father, bringing him great glory. God would be less glorious if it seemed it was a choice between loyalty to his son and mercy to his creation—but rather, it was a win-win-win, in which everyone receives in the transaction. This, then, brings him great and undying glory.</p>	<p>For God: God indeed is glorified as others see the gratitude and adoration we have for him because of his goodness to us. His goodness is seen not just in saving us, but in calling us into a life of ministry, in which deep joy and blessing is found.</p>	<p>Evangelism, discipleship: people come to see and trust God's goodness by seeing it displayed in our lives. We testify, not to our noble "selfless" choices, but to our confidence in God's trustworthiness and goodness, his faithfulness to his promises. Others grow in their trust of God through this.</p>

God's Economy

Jesus suffered and died so that our small-scale inconvenience and suffering could be made meaningful. It is not true that Jesus died so that we don't have to. Rather, Jesus died so that our "death" could be like his: **Redemptive**. In this way, we **participate** in the economy of God: others are served, we are blessed, God is glorified.