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# All For Us

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The greatest love story ever is what we celebrate as Christians at Easter. But many people do not recognise the story and if they do, many think it makes no sense.

The Bible says that “The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing.” (1 Corinthians 1:18) To those who don’t understand what God has done or His motive for doing it – that the cross is a message of God’s love – what we remember on Good Friday for most people, it is foolish to believe God would save us by dying. God’s love is unbelievable, it’s outrageous, it’s profound, and it’s a radical sacrificial love that was all for us.

As cruel and painful as the experience of the cross was, Jesus Himself does not speak of the cross as a terrible disaster, or of Himself as the victim of tragic accident. Just before He is arrested, Jesus says:

*The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. John 12:23 (NIV)*

As if to say, this hour, the event that is about to take place will not only elicit praise and adoration, but more importantly, it will reveal the very essence of who Jesus is. And by that it will reveal the very essence of who God really is. A loving God prepared to go to extreme lengths All For Us.

The writer of the book of Hebrews talks of why Jesus endured such a painful experience.

*Because his heart was focused on the joy of knowing that you would be his, he endured the agony of the cross and conquered its humiliation, and now sits exalted at the right hand of the throne of God! Hebrews 12:2b (TPT)*

In coming to dwell amongst us He paid the ultimate price of love – He gave His life for ours.

## **That You Would Be His**

It's an incredible thing to try and comprehend that the creator of the universe would actually love us enough to do whatever was necessary for us to be in right relationship with Him.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. John 3:16 (NIV)*

*To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12 (NIV)*

The incredible reality is that God spared nothing to be able to enter back into a relationship with your Heavenly Father.

This kind of love, this kind of invitation demands a response.

## **The Three Crosses of Calvary (Luke 23:32-43)**

In this account we see in simple graphic form an object lesson of the two human responses to Jesus' suffering and death along with the consequent outcomes of those responses.

### **+ The Cross of Christ**

Upon the centre cross is Christ. He committed no sin (*He never sinned and He never spoke deceitfully* - 1 Peter 2:22), He knew no sin (*God put the wrong on Him who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God* - 2 Corinthians 5:21), He contained no sin (*Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in Him* - 1 John 3:5), yet He carried all sin of humankind (Isaiah 53:6).

### + **The Cross of the Unbelieving Thief**

Upon the second cross is a thief. According to Luke 23:32, he committed sin, he knew sin, he contained sin (1 John 3:5) and he carried his sin for he rejected the suffering and death of Christ for him (Luke 23:39).

### + **The Cross of the Believing Thief**

Upon a third cross also is a thief. According to Luke 23:32, he committed sin, he knew sin he contained sin (1 John 3:5), but he carried no sin for he accepted the suffering and death of Christ for him, called out for salvation (Luke 23:42) and was relieved of the penalty of his sin by God's mercy, and by God's grace received the certain promise of eternal life (Luke 23:43).

The way each criminal related to Jesus made all the difference as to their state before God. Which convicted criminal will you be like? We are all just like those criminals - we have committed sin, we know sin and we contain sin in our lives.

The Bible says all have sinned and fallen short of God's required standard (Romans 3:23) and are so worthy only of death or eternal separation from God (Romans 6:23) - our works are never sufficient for salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9). Our only hope for both eternal and abundant life is in Jesus (John 3:16).

All who believe in Jesus' suffering and death on their behalf have their sins taken away by Jesus. He personally carried our sins in His body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By His wounds we are healed (1 Peter 2:24).

We have a choice just like the two criminals who hung next to Jesus. Today - who will you be like? What will your response to Jesus be?

If you haven't believed in, and received from Jesus' suffering and death, the forgiveness of sin and eternal and abundant life, you can do so right now by sincerely praying and then living out the following prayer.

*Lord Jesus I need You. Thank you for suffering and dying on that cruel cross for me and my sin when I only deserve eternal separation from You. Thank you Jesus that your heart was focused on the joy of knowing that I could be yours. I open the door of my heart, believe in Your sacrifice, and receive You as my Lord and Saviour. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal and abundant life. From this moment on, I give You authority to take control of my life and make me the kind of person You want me to be by filling me with your Holy Spirit.*

If you have made this decision today we would love the opportunity to celebrate with you and give you a gift of a Bible. Please see a Host Team member at the Information Desk for more details.