

From Death to Life (4)
The Journey of Redemption
The Cross of Christ
(John 19:16-30)

Introduction: The cross was once a symbol of shame but is now the greatest symbol of love and victory. Jesus' death on the cross is the ultimate demonstration of God's love and the means of our salvation. In response, we should live in awe of the cross and share the message of Christ's sacrifice.

I. The cost of the cross (John 19:16-30)

- Jesus' crucifixion was brutal, unjust, and heartbreaking, yet it displayed the greatest act of love.
 - He carried His cross to Golgotha and was crucified between two criminals.
1. **The walk of the cross (vv. 16-17)**
 - Jesus carried the horizontal bar of His cross as was customary.
 - Due to prior beatings, Simon of Cyrene helped Him (Mark 15:20-21; Romans 16:13).
 2. **Placed Between Criminals (v. 18)**
 - Fulfillment of Isaiah 53:12.
 - The criminals were likely insurrectionists (Matthew 27:38; Luke 23:33).
 3. **The inscription above the cross (vv. 19-22)**
 - Pilate wrote: "*Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.*"
 - It was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin to show its universal significance.
 4. **The division of His garments (vv. 23-24)**
 - Soldiers gambled for Jesus' clothes, fulfilling the scripture (Psalm 22:18).
 5. **The women at the cross (v. 25)**
 - Among them: Mary (Jesus' mother), her sister, Mary wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.
 - Their presence took courage amid hostility (Matthew 27:55-56; Mark 15:40-41).
 6. **The words from the cross (vv. 26-30)**
 - Jesus entrusted His mother to John (John 7:3-5; John 2:12).
 - He declared, "*I am thirsty*" (Psalm 69:21).
 - His final words: "*It is finished*" – redemption was complete (2 Corinthians 5:21).

II. The consequence of the cross:

The cross is not just a historical event—it is the power of God for salvation (1 Corinthians 1:18).

1. **We are reconciled to God (Colossians 1:19-20)**
 - Sin separated us (Isaiah 59:2), but Jesus' sacrifice restored the relationship.

- The temple veil was torn, signifying direct access to God (Matthew 27:51).
 - Through Christ, we can draw near to God (Hebrews 4:16).
2. **The power of sin is broken (Romans 6:6-7)**
 - Jesus' death frees us from sin's grip (John 8:36).
 - We are made new (2 Corinthians 5:17).
 - We now have victory over sin (1 Corinthians 10:13).
 3. **The enemy is defeated (Colossians 2:15)**
 - Jesus disarmed Satan's power, conquering death (1 Corinthians 15:55-57).
 - We can stand firm in God's power (Eph. 6:10; James 4:7).

III. The consideration of the cross:

Our response to the cross should be life-changing.

1. **Live in gratitude (Galatians 2:20)** The cross is more than a symbol; it is a call to worship and devotion.
2. **Walk in obedience (Romans 12:1-2)** Jesus died so we could live transformed lives.
3. **Forgive others (Ephesians 4:32)** If Jesus forgave His executioners, we must forgive those who hurt us.
Many wear crosses, but do they carry their cross daily? (Luke 9:23).

IV. The call of the cross: "*Share the Message*"

The gospel is too powerful to keep to ourselves.

Share the message of the cross this week (Romans 1:16).

Final thought: Let the cross remain at the forefront of your life.

- It is not just a piece of jewelry; it is the power of God for salvation.
- Live in awe of it and proclaim its message to the world!