

THE WORD OF SUBSTITUTION

The Seven Greatest Words of Love, Part 4:

Matthew 27:45-46

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“At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. At about three o'clock, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?’ which means, ‘My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?’” Matthew 27:45-46 (NLT)

MEMORY VERSE

“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”
2 Corinthians 5:21

WHAT HAPPENED?

JESUS BECAME OUR SUBSTITUTE!

“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” 1 John 2:2 (NIV)

“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:21(NIV)

WHAT DOES JESUS BEING OUR SUBSTITUTE TEACH US?

1. **GOD IS HOLY**

“Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.’”
Revelation 4:8 (NIV)

“O Lord, are You not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, we will not die. O Lord, You have appointed them to execute judgment; O Rock, You have ordained them to punish. Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; You cannot tolerate wrong.”
Habakkuk 1:12-13a (NIV)

2. **SIN IS UGLY**

• **SIN SEPARATES ME FROM GOD**

“Your evil has separated you from your God and your sins have caused Him to turn away from you, so He does not hear you.” Isaiah 59:2 (NCV)

• **SIN DISTRESSES ME**

“My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear.” Psalm 38:4 (NIV)

• **SIN CONDEMNS ME**

“God is a righteous judge and always condemns the wicked.” Psalm 7:11 (TEV)

“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23 (NIV)

3. **SALVATION IS COSTLY**

“God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed His blood, sacrificing His life for us.” Romans 3:25 (NLT)

“Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When He was hung on the cross, He took upon Himself the curse for our wrongdoing.” Galatians 3:13 (NLT)

WHAT SHOULD BE MY RESPONSE?

1. **TURN FROM MY SIN & TRUST WHAT JESUS DID FOR ME**

“We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done.”
Romans 3:22 (NLT)

“If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for our sins is left.”
Hebrews 10:26 (NIV)

2. **LIVE IN A STATE OF GRATITUDE**

“Now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God—all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in making us friends of God.” Romans 5:11 (NLT)

3. **WHEN TEMPTED, REMEMBER WHAT MY SIN COST JESUS**

“God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. The ransom He paid was not mere gold or silver. He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.”
1 Peter 1:18-19 (NLT)

4. **PASS ON THE GOOD NEWS**

“God is patient for your sake. He doesn’t want to destroy anyone but wants all people to have an opportunity to turn to Him and change the way they think and act.”
2 Peter 3:9 (GW)

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT:

Lord, You are God and I am not, so I want to take these steps in deep gratitude today. I want to turn from my ownership of my life to You as the manager of my life. I want to turn from my sin and trust You, Jesus, to save me, so I humbly ask You to forgive my sins and accept me into Your family/renew my commitment to You to be a part of Your family. As part of Your family, I desire to live in a state of gratitude the rest of my life. When I am tempted to sin, help me to remember what my sin cost You.

Lord, today I recommit myself to sharing the good news about You with others. I know people will miss out on all the benefits of know You died for them if they do not get this word about Your death as a substitute for the penalty of their sin. Help me to bring someone to church as often as I can so they can hear about You from someone besides myself. Help me to look for people to invite and with whom I can share the good news about You. Help me to remember that You died for them, too, and You are asking me to take a step in sharing You with them.

Finally, Jesus, thank You for being willing to be separated from God so that I could have a right relationship with God, my Father. I desire to spend the rest of my life dedicated in gratitude to You and expressing that gratitude in what I say and how I live. I humbly pray this prayer of commitment to You, in Jesus’ name. Amen.