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Mark 15:20 they led him out to crucify him Romans 6:4 we should walk in newness John 11:53 Took counsel to put him to death Acts 2:38 Repent, and let every one of you Romans 6:23 The gift of God is eternal life

Jesus knew what He had to do—it was the 1 reason He came to earth. No matter how unjust and unfair and painful it would be, it had to be done—it is the reason He came to our world.

No matter how disloyal the disciples 2 would be at times, this had to be accomplished for them and for the world.

There would be no appeals, no defender, 3 and no mercy shown-just shame, flogging, suffering and humiliation.

AV Mark 15:20 "And when they had mocked 4 him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him."

After three denials, Simon Peter feels very much like he let his Master down and his friends as well.

6 He would, however, repent and begin again because Jesus said AV Luke 22:32 "I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and

when thou art converted, strengthen [be an encouragement to] thy brethren."

With the Lord's help Simon Peter would 7 turn back, he would be forgiven, and he would, by his sincere repentance, be an encouragement and a spiritual light to others.

Simon would be a witness for his Master, 8 as he wanted so badly to make up for denying the Savior. His thoughts would be the lyrics: How could it be, that my Master would die for me!

The brutal crucifixion of the Lord Jesus 9 was not a pleasant sight, but our sin is not a pleasant sight either.

10 Our sin is *not* a small debt and the Lord's suffering was not a minor pain. Jesus had to suffer and die so He could make a way for us to be free from a serious sin-debt we owed.

11 He took our place, and He paid the price! Nothing is left for us to do but to turn back to God in repentance and faith in His sacrifice.

12 All that is required for us to do is *repent*, forgive our enemies, and maintain our trust in the Lord Jesus by the inspiration of His Spirit.

13 AV Romans 6:4 "Like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

14 After denying the Master three times, Simon goes outside weeping in shame at his failure to acknowledge that he even knew His Lord and Master. He had just done what he vowed He would not do. Now he knows how weak the flesh can be!

15 AV Matthew 26:3 "Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,

16 4 And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him. 5 But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people."

17 If there is any question in our mind as to why the religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus, or why Caiaphas wanted Him out of the way, we only need know the facts.

18 The Sadducees were full of religious pride and arrogance. Caiaphas was not only a Sadducee but also an in-law of the high priest Annas whom he had succeeded.

19 The Romans controlled Palestine, so the high priest was a Roman appointee. Annas was a cunning politician and made sure that his brother-in-law Caiaphas received the desired appointment—and he was the seventh member of the family to receive it.

20 The Temple over which they presided was a financial empire-the desire for money controlled their decisions.

21 Annas and Caiaphas were both considered wealthy. They both controlled the market in the Temple where animals were sold.

22 It was here that Roman money was exchanged for the required half-shekel offering.

23 The priests set the exchange rate and made huge profits. They also received rent from the animal dealers for the stalls and for places to stack cages for doves.

24 The people knew all about this mockery of justice but there was little they could do about it. Millions of dollars a year flowed into the Temple treasuries, and only the religious elite had any say in the matter.

25 Jesus was well aware of this and when the opportunity presented itself, He showed righteous wrath toward this hypocrisy. He denounced this greed and travesty of justice.

26 He AV Matthew 21:12 "Went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves"—

27 Saying 13 "It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves."

28 There were shouts of protest as the dealers raced around to retrieve the coins that went in every direction.

29 Adding to the noise were the shouts from the approving pilgrims who had been cheated for years by these unscrupulous dealers.

30 It was the poor and lowly who were loyal to Jesus—and who followed Him as He healed the blind, the lame, and the oppressed.

31 Caiaphas checked and rechecked but could find no crime and nothing for which to bring a charge against the Lord. With the popularity of Jesus increasing, the power of the high priest was diminishing.

32 The chief priests and the Pharisees had only one option—call a meeting of the council and make a decision.

33 AV John 11:47 "What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. 48 If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation."

34 Caiaphas comes up with a solution, but the Romans would have to carry it out. The Jewish leaders would settle for nothing less than

capital punishment. The problem was to find a serious enough charge to satisfy the law.

35 The high priest was well aware that if Jesus actually was the Messiah, two things would happen—1. the political power of Rome would be challenged; and 2. the position of the high priest would be given to the Messiah.

36 Caiaphas then had an idea—Jesus *claimed* to be the Messiah but there was no way He could *prove* that. Making a false claim was serious and the charge would stick.

37 Caiaphas then and unknowingly prophesies, AV John 11:50 "It is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not."

38 We know *why* justice was denied our Master and we know *why* the divine plan had to be carried through with. Everyone has *sinned*, so everyone is *condemned*.

39 AV John 11:53 "Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death."

40 Simon Peter who had denied he even *knew* the Master, now made this statement to the crowd—

41 NKJV Acts 2:32 "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

42 33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."

43 When asked what they could do, the apostle told them to do what *he* did and what *everyone* has to do

44 NKJV Acts 2:38 "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ

for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

45 Through the Savior's death on the Cross, we can now live forever in Paradise.

46 We now realize that the result of sin *is* death AV Romans 6:23 "but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

47 Anyone who knows this and is willing to place their faith and trust in the Son of God, will *not* have to experience that pathway of *to-tal darkness*, because Jesus walked that road *for us*. He suffered the death that would have been ours.

48 God's love for us is perfect—and His dealing with sin proves that perfection.

49 Everything that sin required—all the judgment, condemnation, penalty, and death was endured for us by our Lord and Savior. It was upon His beloved *Son* that God placed "*the sin of the world*!" John 1:29.

50 Justice was denied to our Lord and our Savior, but now forgiveness is offered to all who realize the gravity of their sin; who know how serious it is to remain in rebellion; and who now understand how much God loves us!
51 He loves us enough to give His best for us, and to bestow upon us His mercy, forgiveness, and grace! He now opens wide His arms of love to receive us into His family—to never again deny our faithful trust in Him!

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