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Daily Devotional - the Meaning of the Cross

OCTOBER 11TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - the Meaning of the Cross

Matthew 27:11-26

The cross—the symbol of Christianity—has great meaning to God. First of all, through Jesus' death, the Father proclaimed the value of every single human being: He offers forgiveness and eternal life to anyone who places faith in Jesus (Rom. 6:23). Second, it meant a great cost. Holy God separated Himself from His beloved Son while Jesus bore the weight of mankind's sin. (See [Matt. 27:46](#).) Third, the redemption of man was accomplished. Jesus' shed blood purchased us from slavery to sin and reconciled us to God ([1 Peter 1:18-19](#)).

What's more, divine justice was carried out on the cross. Scripture tells us that death is the debt owed for sin ([Ezek. 18:20](#)). However, God requires an unblemished sacrifice (Deut. 17:1). We could not adequately pay our own penalty because we would only die in our sin. For holy God to forgive us, a sufficient substitute had to be found—one who qualified to pay for our disobedience. Jesus, the only one who was without sin, willingly took our place and assumed responsibility for our debt. All our iniquity—past, present, and future—was placed on Christ, and God's judgment upon us was carried out against Him.

The meaning of the cross was experienced firsthand by Barabbas, the notorious prisoner who was condemned to die. God's innocent Son was substituted for him, giving the criminal freedom. Like Barabbas, we've had our death sentence commuted, and, though unworthy, we have been set free in Jesus. Today, the cross continues to offer life and

freedom to the undeserving.

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