

Why Did Jesus Die?

Jesus did not die because of weakness. The Lord had escaped the hands of His enemies many times before (Jn. 10:37-39; Lk. 4:25-30). He also had the angles of heaven at His command (Matt. 26:53). He did not die because of ignorance. Some say Jesus came to establish an earthly kingdom, but was surprised when the Jews rejected Him. However, Jesus knew He would be rejected before He was born (Isa. 53). He did not die because of a lack of God's love or personal transgression of God's law. The Father loved His Son Who always kept His commandments (Jn. 15:9-10).

Why, then, did Jesus die? The Bible gives primary and secondary reasons. The latter includes hatred, fear, expediency, envy and greed. The Jews hated Jesus because He exposed their sin (Jn. 7:7). The world hated Jesus because He was not of it (Jn. 15:18-19). Fear of losing their power drove the Jewish rulers to look for a way to get rid of Jesus (Jn. 11:45-48). In this, they saw it was expedient for one man to die than the whole nation perish (Jn. 11:49-53; cf. Matt. 27:15-26). The rulers also envied the Lord because of the influence He had with the people (Jn. 12:12-19). Pilate saw this as the reason they delivered Jesus to die (Mk. 15:6-10). The greed of Judas also played into Jesus' death. He betrayed the Lord for 30 pieces of silver (Matt. 26:14-16).

These sins are still around today, but readily dismissed by men. Many think greed and envy are terrible in others, but excusable in themselves. Legion is the number of people who violate God's will for the sake or expediency. Fear of losing power is common among religious leaders, while hatred of truth and righteousness infects all kinds of people.

The primary reasons Jesus died are sin and love. Isaiah tells us of the suffering servant who was "wounded for our transgressions," yours and mine (Isa. 53:4-8). God loves man so much, He sent His Son to be a sacrifice (Jn. 3:16).

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