

The Love of the Father for Jesus at the Cross
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Everything has always been about the cross

1 Peter 1:18-20 The cross before creation

Revelation 13:8 Again, the cross before creation

Acts 2:23-24 The cross was a prearranged plan

John 5:39 The Old Testament testifies of Jesus (and therefore the cross)

Genesis 3:15 Eve's Seed will crush the serpent - Picture of the cross

This mirrors Romans 16:20 Because of the cross **you** walk in Christ's victory over Satan!

The first blood shed in all history was a picture of the cross: God pierced Adam's side to create a bride for him.

Genesis 3:10,21 The first life lost in all of history was a picture of the cross: Animal died to cover shame

Genesis 22:6-8 Abraham to sacrifice his son, saying God will provide a Lamb - picture of the cross.

Passover is a picture of the cross.

Rahab, the gentile prostitute and the scarlet cord is a picture of the cross.

Even Job is a picture of the cross.

All the prophets of old prophesied the coming Messiah, the suffering servant - Jesus on the cross.

The Holy Spirit was poured out on Pentecost because of the cross.

The Christians in the New Testament walked in miraculous power and self sacrificial love because of the cross.

In heaven, Jesus is worthy to open the scroll because of the cross.

Heavenly angels forever, sing holy holy holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come... Because of the cross

In the last two chapters of the Bible, we see that one day all things will be made right...

Because of the cross.

Regardless of your sin, your shame is removed, and you are a new creation... Because of the cross.

So when Paul said: "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified". (1 Corinthians 2:2)

He did not mean: all I'm ever going to teach on is John 3:16.

What he meant was, all I'm going to teach you is full expression of the full body of scripture!

But there is one aspect of the cross, that can still be a stumbling block even to Christians.

And if we don't deal with it, we run the risk of having our faith derailed should certain things come into our lives.

And that is: the love of the Father towards Jesus on the cross.

We all know John 3:16

You might have even heard John 17:23 The Father loves you as much as He loves Jesus.

But what do you do with Isaiah 53:10a?

"But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. ..."

What do you do with Luke 21:41-44

Jesus asked for the cup to be taken away. He sweat blood in anguish.

So God the Father loves us as He loved Christ...but what does that mean?

Is the Father's love fickle?

Is God the Father a sadist?

Of course not!

But this is challenging, right?

You have to get it. An understanding of the Father's love, particularly His love for Jesus on the cross - the same love with which He loves us - is crucial.

Without it, your faith will shipwreck the moment you experience any sort of suffering.

Here it is:

Psalm 2:7-8

1. This was a gift to Jesus from a loving Father

John 17:19

2. This was what Jesus wanted.

John 17:24

3. Jesus loves the love of the Father so much, he chose the cross so you could experience it too.

Philippians 2:6-11

4. The Father's loving plan was always to elevate Jesus!

John 3:35

5. This gift of love is bigger than you realize

Ephesians 5:25-27 &

Revelation 19:7-8

6. All God the Father ever wanted was for His Son to have a bride!

But how do we explain Jesus asking for the cup to be taken away?

This simply shows how great a sacrifice He had to make for you.

It doesn't mean He didn't want you! That was never the issue. He would do whatever it would take to get you. He was asking the Father if there was *another* way.

But when the Father said that this was the only way, He was all in! His Sacrifice proves the value of his love for the Father and for us.

At that point we see that...Hebrews 12:2 For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross.

And how do we explain that it was the Father's pleasure to crush him?
Let's look at that verse in context.

Isaiah 53:10-12 It was so His Son could be SATISFIED and HONORED!

This leaves us with one final question to answer:

Does suffering and hardship mean we are not loved? Would a loving God allow us to ever suffer?

Think about the cross.

Think about the Father's love for Jesus on the cross.

Think about what He was accomplishing for Him!!

Think of how the Father wanted to exalt him!

Romans 8:18 suffering can't compare to the glory awaiting us

John 15:12-13

God doesn't prove His love by protecting us from all things harmful. Rather, the love of God compels us to die for others, if need be. To call our enemies friends, and to wash their feet.

John 15:17-18 Haters gonna hate - Love them!

John 16:1-2 Do not abandon the faith. You are loved! Even in the middle of the worst crisis.

Jesus warns in Matthew 24:9-10 that persecution will cause people to turn away because they are offended, obviously not seeing the love of the Father

Romans 8:38-39 The truth is NOTHING can separate you from the Father's love!

Revelation 3:20-22 Your invitation from Jesus Himself.

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. 21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

This is what's in store for those who respond to the love of the Father through Jesus Christ!