

Objection is sometimes made to the doctrine of total depravity. If men turn away from God in anger, I can understand it. If men turn aside from God in justice, I can understand it. But when they so hate God that they will not even have his salvation, when they refuse pardon through the precious blood of Christ, when they will sooner be damned than reconciled to God, this shows that their heart is desperately wicked. The cross rejected is the clearest proof of the heart depraved.

C.H. Spurgeon

When a sinner refuses to come to Christ, he is guilty because he has made a free choice. It reflects his own state of mind, feeling and attitude toward God and His Son. He has acted voluntarily without coercion. It is his decision.

Walter J. Chantry

The real truth is that while He came to preach the gospel, His chief object in coming was that there might be a gospel to preach.

R.W. Dale

God did not demand that we first demonstrate our allegiance to Him before Christ would agree to die in our place. To demand that we somehow show ourselves deserving of forgiveness in order to regain our status as His children would have been futile. What can ungodly, rebellious sinners offer God that would move the holy Creator of the universe to sacrifice His only Son on their behalf? So God acted first, motivated solely by his own sovereign love, to grant mercy to His people as the ultimate expression of his grace (Ex. 33:19; Isa. 63:7; Rom. 9:15-18; Eph. 2:4; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:3). Christ died for us because the Father and the Son loved the unlovable.

Scott Hafemann

The good news is that God himself has decreed a way to satisfy the demands of His justice without condemning the whole human race. Hell is one way to settle accounts with sinners and uphold his justice. But there is another way. The wisdom of God has ordained a way for the love of God to deliver us from the wrath of God without compromising the justice of God. And what is this wisdom? The death of the Son of God for sinners!

John Piper

Rejecting the Savior

Luke 23:8-25

Introduction: As Jesus moves to the cross, Luke increasingly highlights His innocence, and the gross suspension of justice necessary to His death sentence. But along the way, we the readers are forced to ask ourselves important questions: *what are we doing with Jesus? and what has His death to do with us?*

The Historical Situation:

Jesus before Herod

Luke 23:8-12

Curiosity
Contempt
Lack of guilt confirmed

Jesus before Pilate

Luke 23:13-17

Roman court procedure
Lack of guilt confirmed

Jesus or Barabbas

Luke 23:18-25

The tradition
Lack of guilt confirmed
The choice

Applying Truth to Life:

Two Practical Questions:

The face of rejection: *what do I think of Jesus?*

The fact of substitution: *what does the death of Jesus have to do with me?*

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Applying Truth to Life:

Two Practical Questions:

1) The face of rejection: *what do I think of Jesus?*

• The people: *strong, blind hatred*

• Herod: *curiosity and contempt*

• Pilate: *respect, and passive rejection*

2) The fact of substitution: *what does the death of Jesus have to do with me?*

• Substitution and Salvation

• Barabbas: a poignant illustration

Kids Notes

Rejecting the Savior

The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. *Pilate tried to release Jesus:*

- A. three times.
- B. and lost all of his faith.
- C. and died as a result.
- D. all of the above.

2. *Herod was happy to see Jesus because:*

- A. he wanted to see a cool miracle.
- B. they were distant cousins.
- C. he thought Jesus would invest in his new company.
- D. none of the above.

3. *The release of Barabbas is a good illustration of:*

- A. the way sinners are released from their guilt.
- B. the fact that Jesus died so we could be freed from sin.
- C. Jesus being our substitute.
- D. all of the above.

For Family Discussion: Why do you suppose Jesus didn't speak when He was in front of Herod?

Space to Doodle

Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

HEROD _____	TOTAL: _____
GUILT _____	_____
JESUS _____	_____
REJECTION _____	_____
CROSS _____	_____
SUBSTITUTE _____	_____

Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

HEROD GUILT JESUS REJECTION CROSS SUBSTITUTE PILATE JAIL
 CRUCIFY JUDGMENT RELEASE BARABBAS AWAY DELIVER THIRD
 LEADERS PEOPLE CROWD VOICES MURDER INSURRECTION WILL
 PASSOVER FEAST TRADITION CONTEMPT CHARGES ROME LAW

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N K C E S M E M J S G C C S L N T
R O M O U J L I U E F R R U L I H
S O I R N E B B I G T U O S I N S
R R D T T T S T F R N C W E W S X
Y E E A I T E E S A E I D J O U K
R A L D I D A M A H M F E R E R O
Z I W T A S A B P C G Y C H S R R
P Y U A T E R R R T D L I A J E V
R T H I R D L K T Y U M B R L C O
E N O I T C E J E R J B I E Q T I
Z R E A L A W L Q N A T A K A I C
P A S S O V E R V R D S L A E O E
R E V I L E D Y A R E D Z I E N S
Z P E O P L E B D O R E H M U J X
N Y V I E J W R A R S E R J X G W

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