

EVERYTHING MATTERS

Series - "Is God Dead?"

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† *"I could accept Jesus as a martyr, an embodiment of sacrifice, and a divine teacher. His death on the cross was a great example to the world, but that there was anything like a mysterious or miraculous virtue in it, my heart could not accept"* (Mohandas Gandhi, Gandhi's Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments With Truth, p. 170.

A. WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

1. When a _____ occurs, someone eventually has to _____ it.

Jesus said, "And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors" (Matt. 6:12, NKJV).

† **Jesus uses the Greek word [ὀφείλημα, ophilema] and it literally means "the failure to pay what is due."**

"When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, ¹⁴having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross" (Col. 2:13-14, NASB).

OPTIONS:

- i. We can make the person _____ for what they did to us.
- ii. We can _____ the person who made us suffer.

Jesus said, "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins" (Matt. 6:14-15, NLT).

† **The word Jesus uses for "forgive" is [ἀφίημι, aphiemmi] and it literally means "to refuse to demand payment."**

† **Before forgiveness can be felt _____, it has to be granted _____.**

"I am not overstating it when I say that the man who caused all the trouble hurt all of you more than he hurt me. ⁶Most of you opposed him, and that was punishment enough. ⁷Now, however, it is time to forgive and comfort him. Otherwise he may be overcome by discouragement. ⁸So I urge you now to reaffirm your love for him" (2 Corinthians 2:5-8, NLT).

† **There are times those who hurt us must be confronted, but only out of love – never out of revenge but to get _____ and _____.**

2. If you take away the _____, you don't have a _____.

‡ *“The essence of sin is we human beings substituting ourselves for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting Himself for us. We . . . put ourselves where only God deserved to be; God . . . puts Himself where we deserve to be” (John Stott, The Cross of Christ, p. 160).*

Jesus said, “And I, the Messiah, feast and drink, and you complain that I am ‘a glutton and a drinking man, and hang around with the worst sort of sinners!” (Matthew 11:19, TLB).

*Jesus said, “God’s wisdom, however, is shown to be true by its results” (Matthew 11:20, TEV).
Jesus said, “Go and make disciples” (Matt. 28:19a, NLT).*

Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?” ⁶They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him” (John 8:4-6a, NLT).

Jesus said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” (John 8:7b, NLT).

“One by one, beginning with the older men, the scribes and Pharisees left. Jesus was left alone with the woman” (John 8:9, GWT).

“Then Jesus stood up again and said to her, ‘Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?’ ¹¹‘No, sir,’ she said. And Jesus said, ‘Neither do I. Go and do not continue in this kind of sin’” (John 8:10-11, PAR).

Jesus said, “If God were your Father, you would love Me. After all, I’m here, and I came from God. I didn’t come on My own. Instead, God sent Me” (John 8:42, GWT).

Jesus said, “Go and make disciples” (Matt. 28:19a, NLT).

Jesus said, “All who love Me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and We will come and make Our home with each of them. ²⁴Anyone who doesn’t love Me will not obey Me. And remember, My words are not My own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent Me” (John 14:23-24, NLT).

WHO MATTERS TO ME?