

Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

We can find answers from Luke's account on the last words of Jesus on the cross.

First, Jesus died to show us how to forgive. He said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Jesus told Peter and his disciples to forgive 70x7 times. Ha! Are you kidding? Some of us may think it is nice thought but not realistic. Jesus died on the cross to redeem our sins and show us forgiveness is a moral mandate. We have to do it even if we have to pay a high price.

Secondly, Jesus died to show us death is not the end. Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." When we sail to the high seas, we see only the horizon. Even we learned from the books that the earth is round, our eyes tell us that the earth is flat. It is hard for us to believe that there is land on the other side of the horizon. Jesus died to show us that death is not the end. It would be a sad moment for our families but it would be a happy time for us. We will enjoy the new life in paradise with Jesus.

Finally, Jesus died to show us God's love and care. He said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Jesus realized that he had completed his mission on earth and he was ready to go home. He committed his spirit to the hands of the Father. He showed us that our final breathe on earth is our first breathe in our Father's loving arms. We don't have to be afraid of death. When we were born, we cried and our loved ones rejoiced. When we shall die, our loved ones will cry but we will rejoice. Jesus died to show God's love and care and destroy our fear of death.

Let us pray: Lord Jesus, thank you for dying for our sins and showing us that death is not the end of life. Help us to forgive and have faith in you. Help us to use our lives to witness God's love and care. Amen.

耶穌為何要受死？

我們從路加福音記載的十架三言可以找出答案。耶穌以死教導我們饒恕的真義。祂說：「父啊，赦免他們。因為他們所作的，他們不曉得。」耶穌曾教訓祂的門徒要饒恕別人七十個七次。我們大抵會禁不住地笑了出來，那怎麼可能？耶穌被釘十架，不單要赦免世人的罪，更要使我們了解，饒恕別人是基督徒的本份，我們無論付上什麼代價，都要做到。

耶穌也以祂的受死證明死亡並非人生的終點。祂說：「今日你要同我在樂園裏了。」當我在大海航行時，看到遠遠的水平線，心裏就會以為地球是平的，遠遠的那邊便是地極了。只有憑信心才能勇敢向前航，終於看到新的天地。人死後也是這樣。耶穌以死來顯示我們最後的歸宿。

耶穌的死亡也顯示了上帝的大愛。祂說：「父啊，我將我的靈魂交在祢手裏。」耶穌來世的責任已完成，祂可以安心回家了。最後，祂把靈魂交到天父的手中，慈愛的天父便歡迎祂歸家了。我們也不必懼怕死亡，想當初我們出世時，自己大哭，家人倒欣喜萬分。我們去世時，家人或會大哭，我們倒欣然上路，因為在這世上最後的一口氣，就是在天堂的第一口氣哩！

請禱告：主耶穌，祢被釘十架，使我們明白人死並非如燈滅。求祢幫助我們去饒恕他人，更願以在世的生命，見證上帝的慈愛。阿們。