

SERMON NOTES
Who Killed Jesus Why?
Luke 23:1-25; Acts 4:26-28

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I. Who Killed Jesus?

Acts 4:26-28 spells it out: we all did!

26 The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers have gathered together against the Lord and against his Messiah.⁷

27 For in this city, in fact, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had decided beforehand/predestined to take place.

II. Why did Jesus Die?

A. From a Human Point of View

1. The Religious Reason: Blasphemy (*Mark 2:7, 14:64; John 10:30-31*)

Jesus had said & done things that only God could say and do.

Q: Do YOU believe in Him as your God?

2. The Political Reason: Sedition (*Luke 23:2*)

Jesus was a threat to the public good and the peace and stability of the Roman Government

Q: Do WE allow Jesus to “bother” our conscience 9as individuals and as a society), or do we find ways to keep him silent?

3. The Broader Human Reasons: (*read the gospels to see this!*)

. . . Fear, Cowardice, Greed, Power, Jealousy, Reputation, etc.

Q: Is it time to ask God’s help with these within our own lives?

B. From a Divine Point of View

1. **Jesus Died . . . for our sins**

Isaiah 53:5-6, 8-9 -- 5 But **he was wounded for our transgressions**, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. 6All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and **the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all**. . . 8 By a perversion of justice he was taken away... 9although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth

1 Corinthians 15:3 -- For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that **Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the scriptures

2. **Jesus Died . . . as a concrete demonstration of God’s love**

John 3:16 -- God **so loved the world** that he gave his only Son (*DR: up to death*)

3. **Jesus Died . . . to reconcile us to God in an eternal relationship**

John 3:16 -- For **God** . . . gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him **may not perish but may have eternal life** (*DR: “eternal life” is life is not just “life for ever,” but life in relationship with God that begins now*).

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 -- 18 God . . . **reconciled us to himself** through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, **not counting their trespasses against them**

4. **Jesus Died . . . to model the transformed behavior that this new relationship creates**

2 Corinthians 14-15,17 -- 14For the love of Christ **urges us on** (*DR: transforms our behavior*), because we are convinced that **one has died for all**; therefore all have died (*DR: been transformed*). 15And **he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves**, but for him who died and was raised for them. . . . 17So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! . . . 19 and God has entrusted the message of reconciliation to us.

Philippians 2:3-8 -- 3Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. (*DR: as Jesus did!*) 5Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, 8**he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death** — *even death on a cross*.