

The Passion of the Christ # 5: HOW SHOULD I RESPOND TO THE PASSION OF JESUS?

The most famous verse in the Bible is probably John 3:16. It is the Gospel in a Nutshell!

1 Corinthians 15:12 – *By the gospel you are saved.*

The King James Version puts Jesus right in the middle of the Gospel in John 3:16!

*For God so loved the world that He gave His Only begotten **Son**, that whosoever believes in Him should not Perish but have Everlasting Life.*

John 3:16 tells us:

1. You need to realize God loves you! “God so loved the world...”

1 John 4:16 - *So we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.* β Notice: this verse doesn't say that God has love. It says He is love.

1 John 4:9-10 (NLT) - *God showed how much He loved us by sending His only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love... He sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.*

1 John 3:1 (Amp) - *What an incredible quality of love the Father has shown us, that we should be permitted to be called and counted as the children of God!*

May you be able to feel and understand how long, how wide, how deep and how high [that's the four dimensions] God's love really is and experience this love for yourself.

2. You need to understand Jesus is God's free gift to you! “...that He gave His only begotten...”

C.S. Lewis says that a person has three options when it comes to Jesus because Jesus claims to be God in the flesh:

1. Jesus is a lunatic
2. Jesus is a liar
3. Jesus is Lord

Romans 3:24-25 (Mes) - *Out of sheer generosity God put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where He always wanted us to be. And He did it by means of Jesus Christ. He sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 (LB) - *God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sins. Then, in exchange, He poured God's goodness into us.*

Ephesians 2:8 (MSG) - *Saving is all His idea, and all His work. All we do is trust Him enough to let Him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish!*

3. You need to accept God's gift for you. “...Whosoever believes in Him will not perish...”

Titus 2:11 (LB) - *The free gift of eternal salvation is offered to everyone.*

Col. 3:11 (LB) - *One's nationality or race or education or social position is unimportant; such things mean nothing. Whether a person has Christ is what matters, and He is equally available to all.*

Romans 3:22 (NLT) - *We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done.*

2 Corinthians 6:2 - *Right now God is ready to welcome you. Today He is ready to save you!*

Have you ever personally accepted what Jesus Christ did for you on the cross and told Him so? The Bible tells us how:

- Romans 10:9 - *If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*
- Acts 2:38 - *Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*
- Romans 6:11 - *You should consider yourselves dead to sin and able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus.*
- The Bible tells us to Believe, Confess, Repent, Be Baptized, Live for Christ

4. **You need to look forward to heaven.** *"...should not perish but have ever lasting life."*

1 Peter 1:3-5 (NLT) - *All honor to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is by his boundless mercy that God has given us the privilege of being born again. Now we live with a wonderful expectation because Jesus Christ rose again from the dead. For God has reserved a priceless inheritance for his children. It is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And God, in his mighty power, will protect you until you receive this salvation, because you are trusting him. It will be revealed on the last day for all.*

Interview with Mel Gibson:

MG: Let's face it. I've been to the pinnacle of what secular utopia has to offer. It's just this kind of everything. I've got money, fame, it's all been like here you go. When I was younger I dipped it into the fun and sucked it up. All right! It didn't matter. There wasn't enough. It wasn't good enough. It's not good enough. It leaves you empty. The more you eat, the bigger you get.

Reporter: How bad did it get? Did you ever think of jumping out a window?

MG: I really did. I was looking down thinking, Man, this is just easier this way. You have to be mad, you have to be insane to despair in that way. But that is the height of spiritual bankruptcy. There's nothing left. But what a waste! When people do that it's so sad. Whenever I hear of a suicide, someone died, I want to cry. Because there's something better if they can just hang on a little longer. It's awful.

Psalm 34:8 (MSG) - *Open your eyes and see how good God is!*

In the movie *The Passion of the Christ*, Pilate, the governor of Judea, walks out in front of an entire mob and asks the single most important question in history. He asks, "What will you do with Jesus?"

So, What will you do with Jesus?

The Passion of the Christ has happened for you, but the real question is: has it happened to you?