

# What Did Jesus Do to Redeem Us?

Services: Wednesday, 12/13 at 11 AM & 7 PM

Church Year: Second Wednesday in Advent – 2017

**During Advent: Wednesday Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6**

**Introduction**: Dear friends in Christ: In the *NEW version* of Luther's Small Catechism, we focus today on the Apostles' Creed, the second article, part 2; **part 1** addressed *who He is*; **part 2** addresses *what He did*.

Going to page 176, we are focusing on this part of the explanation:

*"...who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death..."*

Today's section includes 14 questions: 162-175

162. **What are we saying when we confess that Jesus has redeemed us?** // Think about someone being kidnapped *with a ransom being demanded*; when we were all being held captive, *Jesus paid our ransom!*
163. **Why did we need to be redeemed? What was our situation?**
- The entire human race lived under the tyranny of sin, death, and the devil. // Before God saved us:
    - ♦Sin characterized our lives, ♦death made us fearful, and ♦the devil controlled us.
  - The entire human race stood under the judgment of God. // As the Bible says, we *"were by nature children of wrath"* (Eph. 2:3), *thus under God's guilty verdict and deserving His punishment!*

164. **How did we come to be lost and condemned?** // We inherited sin from our parents, so, *from conception*, we were ✦in sin, ✦spiritually blind, and ✦spiritually dead.  
A statement to think about: “Read Genesis 3. Note how **doubt** about God’s Word leads to the **denial** of God’s Word, which leads to **disbelief**, which leads to **disobedience**, which results in **death**” (178).
165. **Why did God send His Son to rescue us?** // He loved us! Love sees the need; *then acts to supply the need!* Since we were helpless, *God took action through Jesus!*
166. **How did Jesus rescue me from sin?**
- By His death on the cross, He paid the entire penalty of my sin and guilt. // God the Father put our sins on Jesus; *He became sin for us and for all!*
  - By His death on the cross, He fully endured and appeased the wrath of God toward all people, thereby reconciling us to God. // Since sin requires punishment, *Jesus endured our punishment*; then He laid down His life!
  - By His death on the cross, He destroyed the power of sin to enslave me. // Jesus’ death sealed His victory; now, *since we are united to Him in baptism*, sin should no longer control us!
167. **How did Jesus rescue me from the devil?** // He – the God-Man – became our *perfect substitute*; first with His sinless life – *He was **actively obedient** to the Father*; then, second with His suffering and death – *He was **passively obedient** as He received our sins and our punishment!*
168. **How did Jesus rescue me from death?** // Since sin brings death, Jesus had to remove sin; *He did that through His living, suffering, and dying for us!*
169. **What does the Bible teach about Jesus’ resurrection? Why is it so comforting to us?**

- a. **He is the Son of God.** // How do we know? He said He would rise; *then He did!*
- b. **His teaching is true.** // Sin, forgiveness, heaven; hard to believe, *but proven by His resurrection!*
- c. **The Father has accepted Christ's sacrifice for the reconciliation of the world.** // How do we know? *He raised Him from the dead!*
- d. **All who believe in Christ will rise to eternal life.** // The Bible tells us the order: **"Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ"** (1 Corinthians 15:23).

170. **Why was Jesus' divine majesty not always evident during His earthly life?** // From His birth to His death, He usually functioned in ordinary ways *because He limited the use of His divine powers!* We call that His state of humiliation.

171. **What does this state of humiliation mean for our understanding of Jesus' life?** Jesus...

- a. **...was born in humble circumstances.** // With animals; *then laid in an animal feeding crib.*
- b. **...chose not to know everything.** // For example, *He didn't know when He would return.*
- c. **...experienced sadness and loss.** // When Lazarus died, and others were very sad, *Jesus wept.*
- d. **...faced human dilemmas and temptations.** // Not wanting to suffer the agony of the cross, *yet wanting to do the will of His Father.*
- e. **...suffered the agony of death and hell.** // He endured excruciating pain and was forsaken by God, *all because of our sins!*
- f. **...was so poor that He was buried in a borrowed tomb.** // Jesus became poor, *so that we could become eternally rich in Him!*

172. **What comfort does the state of humiliation bring to us? //**  
*Jesus has been there, so He understands us!*
173. **When does Jesus, as our Brother, manifest the divine majesty that is His as the Son of God?**
- a. ...with miracles and especially at the transfiguration.  
*// Others also did miracles, but only Jesus shone as bright as the sun!*
  - b. In His state of exaltation, including ...His ... descent into hell, His resurrection..., His ascension..., His present reign..., and His future return... *// Ponder those things; so amazing, so powerful, so wonderful!*
174. **What does the state of exaltation mean for our understanding of who Jesus is and what He has done?**
- a. Jesus descended into hell and declared victory over Satan for us. *// He is truly the winner!*
  - b. Jesus rose triumphantly over death and the grave for us. *// So death is truly defeated!*
  - c. Jesus ascended to the right hand of God and now rules for our benefit. *// Even though evil seems to reign, Jesus is almighty and ruling!*
  - d. Jesus will return in glory as judge on the Last Day and bring us into His new creation. *// The One who lived and died for us will find us innocent when He comes because, by God's grace, we know Him!*
175. **What comfort does the state of exaltation bring us? //**  
*Jesus is ruling for the benefit of believers!*
- Conclusion:** Now, **▶** more aware of our need for Jesus and **▶** knowing what He has done for us, let us **✓** greatly rejoice in our Savior and **✓** tell others that Jesus is the reason for the season!  
Let us pray: (See the prayer in the block on page 187.)