

# He Was Cursed, We Are Blessed

*Jesus was Cursed by God!*

Wednesday, 4/1 at 11:00 & 7:00

Sixth Wednesday of Lent – 2020

Holy Thursday 11 & 7; Good Friday 11 & 7; Holy Saturday 4; Easter 9

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: This is the final sermon in our midweek series: *Jesus' Amazing Obedience for Our Eternal Benefit*. The series has included ♦Jesus' fasting, ♦Jesus' agony in Gethsemane, ♦Jesus' six trials, ♦Jesus' crucifixion, and ♦Jesus being mocked. Today, *we focus on Jesus being cursed!*

1. **What Is a Curse?** A curse is *saying something bad against someone else*. In the OT, regarding a person who committed a capital crime and was put to death, his dead body was sometimes displayed by hanging him on a tree for public viewing, *which would help detour others from committing the same crime*. The Bible says: **“...a hanged man [that is, hanged on a tree] is cursed by God”** (Deut. 21:22-23 ESV).
2. **Was Jesus Cursed by God?** Yes! **“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us-- for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree’”** (Gal. 3:13 ESV). Why was it necessary for Jesus to be cursed by God? Think about it like this: We know that **“...the wages of sin is death”** (Romans 6:23 ESV). In other words, sin has been committed, so – *because*

*God is a just God* – all sin must be punished. ✓ Sins that seem minor – *like the sin of Adam and Eve*, ✓ sins that seem major – *like murder*, and ✓ *every other sin in between*. God should have punished each of us, *since we are the sinners*, but, instead, *He lovingly chose to punish Jesus in our place!* Jesus literally became a curse for us as He ✦ received our sins, ✦ was separated from God, and ✦ received the punishment we deserve.

### 3. **When Did Jesus Receive Our Sins and Punishment?**

- a. Isaiah wrote this prophecy about Jesus – about 700 years before the time of Jesus: **“...he was pierced for our transgressions** [*nailed to His cross*]; **he was crushed for our iniquities** [*bore our sins*]; **upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds** [*bearing our punishment*] **we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned-- every one-- to his own way** [*we have all sinned*]; **and the LORD** [*God the Father*] **has laid on him** [*God the Son*] **the iniquity** [*the sins, wickedness*] **of us all.** (53:5-6 ESV).
- b. Jesus received God’s wrath: The Bible says that **“[Jesus] is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world”** (1 John 2:2 ESV). That means that Jesus is ✦ our **sin offering**, ✦ our **atoning sacrifice**, ✦ our **means of forgiveness**. How? Because He received both *our sins* **and** *God’s punishment!*
- c. Jesus began and ended with “Father”: From His cross Jesus made seven statements; He began with, **“Father, forgive them,”** [and ended with,] **“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!”**

(Luke 23:34, 46 ESV). It was in between those two statements – *the first made at 9 AM and the last made at 3 PM* – when Jesus was bearing our sins and the wrath of God! But was He bearing our sins during **all** or during **some** of those six hours?

- d. From 9 to 3 or 12 to 3: These are two possibilities:
- i. 9 to 3: God created in six days, so the six hours, *from 9 to 3*, fit well with Jesus taking **six hours** to remove the sins from the world, which was created in **six days**.
  - ii. 12 to 3: After Jesus first three statements, which He spoke between 9 AM and Noon, the Bible says, “**...from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour**” (Matt. 27:45 ESV). Matthew was using Jewish time; for us, that means *from noon until 3 PM*. As the Bible sometimes makes a connection between sin and darkness, *so it makes sense that the darkness from 12 to 3 was pointing to the sin and punishment Jesus was bearing from 12 to 3*. Even if we can’t know for sure on the timing, *Jesus definitely received our sins and our punishment!*

4. **When Did Jesus Acknowledge God’s Curse?** The Bible says, “**...about the ninth hour [3 PM] Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli [Hebrew], lema sabachthani [Aramaic]?’ that is, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’**” (Matt. 27:46 ESV). // Lenski wrote this description: “**...the world’s sin and its**

curse... now lie upon the Son. Jesus thirsts for God, but God has removed himself.... The Son cries for God, and God makes no reply to him” (1119).

5. **Why Did Most Jews at the Time of Paul Reject Jesus?**

Paul wrote this statement about 25 years after Jesus died on a cross: “...**Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles...**” (1 Cor. 1:22-23 ESV). The Jews came to this conclusion: Since *all who are hanged on a tree are cursed by God, Jesus – who was crucified, who was hanged on a tree – could not be the Promised Messiah!* To some degree, that makes sense – *except for the fact that Jesus had to be cursed by God to become our Savior!*

6. **How Are We Benefitting From Jesus?**

- a. He removed the curse from us: Think about the robber who was saved; though he was hanged on a tree, *he was taken to paradise!* As the curse was removed from him, *so also from us!*
- b. We have the benefits by grace through faith: *Jesus defeated sin, death, and the devil for everyone!* Now, God is working **by** the Holy Spirit **through** Word and Sacrament to **show** people their helplessness and **give** them faith in Jesus!

**Let Us Pray**: Dearest Jesus, *TY for becoming a curse for us!*