

He Carried His Cross John 19:16-17

As we approach the Easter holiday, we as the Church are moved with increased awareness to remember the crucifixion of Christ.

We celebrate the crucifixion (oddly enough) on Good Friday remembering that the love of Christ is most notably seen through the Cross of Christ.

Luke 23:33-35 And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

Many people do not recognize the intimacy and the seriousness of the Cross of Christ in a personal way. There are many clues that reveal how deeply Jesus wanted to make a way for us to be saved.

Jesus is referred to as the Lamb of God nine times in the book of the Revelation denoting His sacrificial mission of the cross. Revelation 13:8 reveals Him as the “Lamb... *of God*... slain from the foundation of the world”. The mission of the cross predates the beginning of the world.

The more we study the Word the more we appreciate the impact of Jesus’ willing death on the cross because of His love for us.

1. First let’s notice that it was “His” cross. Vs.17
 - A. **John 10:17-18** Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.
 - B. The incarnation is the evidence that this was the choice of God.
 - C. Christ owned this cross. It was the method chosen for the redemption of mankind.

2. Second let’s notice that that He went forth. Vs.17
 - A. He did not quit halfway.
 - B. **John 15:13** Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
 - C. He could have avoided the cross and allowed man go be destroyed in Hell.

3. Third let’s notice that he calls us to also bear our cross. Vs.17
 - A. **1 John 3:16** Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
 - B. We are all on mission with Jesus for the lives of others.
 - C. **Luke 9:23** And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.