

My death He died

The story of the merciful king, the thief, and his aging mother

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

1) Separated from God due to unrighteousness

- God is a holy God and our sins separate us from Him as He won't tolerate sin in His presence in form.
- He shuns evil casts it away from Himself in the same way that society in general shuns lepers and casts them away.
 - "Unclean, unclean", they shout
 - Sin – whether it be the lust of the flesh, worldliness, or self-centeredness – is detestable in God's sight
- God established the righteous and just law of the wages of sin being death right from before the very entrance of sin into the world
 - Genesis 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."
- God is a just God and always upholds His laws, which were established upon His justice.
 - The world cries foul when they see the laws of God considering them to be unfair
 - In the Garden of Eden God allowed Adam and Eve to eat of every tree and plant, except one. The freedom that they were given was overwhelming, yet they chose to eat of that one forbidden tree.
 - In today's world it's no different. People shun all the good that God allows and want what he forbids. This is human nature.
- As much as the world think that they'll get away with their sin, they are blind to God and His impending judgment
 - Psalms 37:7-9 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.
Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret —it leads only to evil.
For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.
 - It is a great deception that people think that they can continue sinning and not suffer the consequences thereof.
 - We ought not consider God's patience and mercy as leniency, as this time of grace that we live in is a time for us to put our lives right before God. It's not a time to see how much we can sin and get away with it, as the world is in fact doing.
- The day of judgment is drawing near, and that will be a fearful day
 - Zephaniah 1:14-16 The great day of the LORD is near — near and coming quickly.
The cry on the day of the LORD is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry.
That day will be a day of wrath—a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin,
a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness — a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers.
 - Revelation 20:11-15 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

2) My death He died

- After spelling out the gloom of the fate that awaits sinners, we come to the good news of what makes Good Friday good
- He died my death that I may live!
- He, the righteous, died for us, the unrighteous
 - Not only did He die in our place, but the full wrath of God mentioned in Zephaniah and Revelation 20 was poured out on Him on that cross
 - That wrath that was meant for us was borne by Him
 - The sinless was punished for the sinner, the righteous for the wicked
- We were like the aging mother who had to undergo the just decree of the king to be punished, but, He being the merciful King embraced us at the right time to receive our punishment and satisfy his just laws at the same time.
 - It was on that cross that both His justice and His mercy were satisfied.
- The believer will therefore not fear the final judgment and the Day of Wrath, because judgment has already been passed on the cross
 - John 5:24 "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

3) Reconciliation with God and eternal glory

- 1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.
- To top it off, not only does He show us mercy by taking our death and punishment upon Himself, but He completes the restoration of our broken relationship with God by reconciling us with the Father through this selfless act.
 - He draws us into His family so that we can be adopted as God's children and Jesus calls us His brothers and sisters
 - John 1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.
 - Hebrews 2:10-11 In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.
- 1 Peter 5:10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.