

# Sermon Series – Exodus 12:1-14

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*Preached on Good Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012*

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## Good Friday

Gospel Reading: John 18 and 19

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### **The death of Jesus Christ was absolutely necessary in order that you might be saved from death**

You have to ask yourself, “Was it really necessary?” Men throughout the ages have asked themselves that question, “Was it really truly necessary that Jesus had to suffer and go to the cross?” The answer is: the suffering and death of Jesus Christ was absolutely necessary in order that you might be saved from death.

The cross was necessary because this is the way in which God reconciled mankind with Himself. There was no other way. Before the ages, before time, this was the plan. There was no alternative. There was no Plan B. Even asking the question, “Could there have been another way?” is right up there with the questions “Can God create a mountain that He cannot move?” or “Can God create a sentence so long that He cannot read it?” People have asked these questions as well. These types of questions are called the Omnipotent Paradox. In other words, they are silly questions. God cannot do something that takes away from His being God. He cannot make something and will not make something when it does not make sense for Him to do it because doing so would take away from His holiness. He is perfect and all His precepts and every single decision that God has ever made has been and will always be perfect. He would not make a silly decision because He is not able to. He is God. Thus, the answer to the question, “Could there have been another way?” is “No”. This was the only way to reconcile mankind with God.

The cross was necessary because one man's sin ruined everything. Think about it. God created Adam. He created man in His own image. God had fellowship with Adam in the garden. He spoke with him. They had a conversation and spent time together. The first man stood naked in the garden and had no problem with it, until the cursed tree brought everything falling down. Adam was told not to eat from that one tree. However, Adam, taking matters into his own hands, brought mankind into a tumble and sin took over the world and with sin...and with sin came death. Yet, God was not finished. In turn, after many ages He sent His only Son to earth. His Son was His only Son, whom He loved. His Son was not one made in His image, but one of His very essence. Then on a dark night in Gethsemane, the Son and the Father had fellowship together in a garden. They conversed with each other. Soon following the garden conversation, Jesus hung on the cross and soldiers cast die for His clothing. Thus, for a period of time Jesus was naked. However, in this case the cursed tree, did not bring death, but instead brought life. It was a complete reversal of everything that Adam had done. Christ, the second Adam, brought us back into a relationship with God. In Galatians it is written, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."<sup>1</sup>

The cross was necessary because we needed His blood to protect us from death. Last night we discussed Passover and how the blood of the lamb was painted on the sides and the top of the doors. Ask Christians what occurred the night of the Passover in Egypt and most will response that God came through and passed over the houses that had the blood of the lamb on the door. This is true, but only partially describes that

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<sup>1</sup> Galatians 3:13

night. The Hebrew word for Passover can also mean “covering”. Although God sent the Destroyer to kill the firstborns in Egypt, He also covered the houses of His people that followed His ordinance. The people of God were protected by God because of the blood of the lamb. Today, the people in Christ are protected from the second death because of the blood of the lamb. Jesus had to go to the cross in order to save us through His blood from death so that all who believe in Him will have eternal life.

Lastly, the cross was necessary to bring our own sin into true focus in our lives. The cross before you this evening is typically hung sixty feet away from you and thirty feet high. You see it hung up high every week with the bright lights shining on it. However, tonight the cross sits right at your feet. You are gathered around it just like those who were gathered around to see our Savior hanging on it. There is no escaping its presence. You could not help seeing it when you walked in the doors tonight. It sits right in the middle of the aisle. Christ was perfect. Pilate even said, “I find no guilt in Him.” Yet, Jesus was hit in the face and struck for no reason. He was spit on. I cannot think of any one of you gentlemen that would let anyone spit on you. You would not take it for a minute. But Christ did not say a word. He was smacked in the head and sentenced to be flogged in Pilate’s praetorium. The tradition goes that He was flogged thirty-nine times. Why thirty-nine times? Because the Romans, according to tradition, calculated that forty slashes with a whip would kill a man. His sentence was not to be flogged to death, it was crucifixion. He received one scourge short of death. Please keep in mind that flogging was nothing like you see in the pirate movies. It was not a simple piece of leather or even three pieces of leather that smacked Him on the back. When the Romans flogged a man, they placed pieces of glass and bone within the leather so that

every time it smacked against His back pieces of His flesh were torn away from His body. After the beating, Jesus was forced to carry His own cross to the place where His crucifixion would take place. Then He was nailed to said cross and hung up to die, probably of asphyxiation as the blood entered into His lungs He had to push Himself up to get a breath and then fall back down and gasp for air. It is Jesus' perfect life that He gives to us and it is all of our sins that we give to Him. Why did He have to suffer? He had to suffer because of you and me. He had to suffer because of how we act – because of our sin. I would hope that we are getting better every day. We continually seek God's forgiveness, but every day we wake up and do something sinful in the eyes of the Lord. Every time you or I do something sinful, it is a hammer pounding in the nail, it is a slash along His back. For that we must be very, very grateful that He did this for us.

So was the cross necessary? Was it really necessary? Well, there was no other way. The Father has the perfect decisions and He made those decisions long, long ago before the cross occurred. It is the right decision and there is no other way. It was necessary because one man's perfect life reversed what one man's terrible decision brought into the world. It was necessary because His blood protects us, forgives our sins, and gives us everlasting life. And it was necessary because it brings our sins into our view. This ugly thing behind me (*pointing to the cross*), it was necessary because of us and thank God that Jesus Christ was willing to give His life for us. So, yes, it was necessary.

There is still much more to be said. There is so much more that continues to go on, but tonight...it is finished. On Easter, we will get to hear the story as it continues on and what Christ's sacrifice and His death truly means to each and every one of us.

# SERMON OUTLINE

## INTRODUCTION:

Was it really necessary for Jesus to die upon the Cross?

**Homiletical Point:** The death of Jesus Christ was absolutely necessary in order that you may be saved from death.

1. The cross was necessary because there was no other way for God to reconcile mankind.

Explain: Omnipotence Paradox – Can God create a mountain that He cannot move?  
Stupid question; God cannot do anything that no longer makes Him God

2. The cross was necessary because one man's sin brought death upon the whole world.

Explain: Christ was born into a world of disorder and died a death that brought order back into the world.

God created man in His own image	God sent His only Son
God had fellowship with man in the garden	God fellowship with Christ in the garden
The first man stood naked by the tree	The second man hung naked on the tree
The cursed tree brought death into the world	The cursed tree brought life into the world

<sup>NIV</sup> **Galatians 3:13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

3. The cross was necessary because His blood protects from death.

Explain: Passover – Destroyer; God sent death to Egypt; God protected

<sup>NIV</sup> **Hebrews 9:22** In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

4. The cross was necessary because it highlights our need for a savior.

Explain: Punched; Spit upon; Flogged; Crown of thorns; Nailed; Speared

## CONCLUSION:

Was it really necessary for Jesus to die upon the Cross?

- 1) There was no other way
- 2) One man's perfect life and death appeased God's wrath and redeemed the world
- 3) Forgiveness requires the shedding of blood
- 4) Brings our sins in plain view

Yes, it was necessary! There is much more to be said about Jesus Christ, but not tonight. Tonight, it is finished.