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# And Now—What Shall We Do?

*“Whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. . .” (Romans 3:25a).*

*“And all the crowds who came together for this spectacle, when they observed what had happened, began to return, beating their breasts. And all His acquaintances and the women who accompanied Him from Galilee were standing at a distance, seeing these things” (Luke 23:48–49).*

After having walked with Jesus through the ordeal of His sufferings, after having seen the sacrifice that He made for us, let us now ask ourselves the deepest of all questions about what we have seen, “What does Jesus want us to do?” Should we go to our homes simply beating our breasts in amazement and wonderment, as some did long ago (Luke 23:48)? Should we stay at the cross for a while and ponder what has happened, as perhaps the women from Galilee did (Luke 23:49)? No doubt the proper answer to these questions should be, not “yes or no,” not “yes and no,” but “yes and more.” “Yes,” we are constrained to meditate as never before on what we have seen and beat our breasts in awe over the greatest demonstration of God’s grace and our sinfulness; but “more than this,” we must set about to fulfill what Jesus has asked us to do concerning His cross. What we have seen must compel us to action.

*He wants us to remember His death.* We are to meditate upon His death each Sunday as we partake of His supper. He told His early disciples that Passover night, “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes” (1 Corinthians 11:26). He said of the bread, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me” (1 Corinthians 11:24). He also took the cup and said, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me” (1 Corinthians 11:25). He said to them, “But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my

Father’s kingdom” (Matthew 26:29). After the establishment of the church, the New Testament pictures the Lord’s Supper on the Lord’s Day (Revelation 1:10) and no Lord’s Day without the Lord’s Supper (see Acts 20:7).

*He wants us to see in His death the love that He has for every person.* He said, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16). He further said, “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep” (John 10:11). The writer of the Book of Hebrews said, “But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone” (Hebrews 2:9). Jesus did not die for a select few; He died for every person who has ever lived on this earth, every person living now on it, and every person who ever will live on it. No one, regardless of how multi-talented or bereft of talent, how rich or poor, is beyond the reach of His love.

*He wants us to preach it to others.* Paul wrote, “For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:1). He also wrote, “For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:22–24; see Mark 16:15, 16). The greatest gift that we can give to anyone is

the message of salvation through the cross and how it can be appropriated.

*He wants us to be that church that He created through His cross.* Paul told the Ephesian elders, "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). He told the Ephesians, "To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:21). He told the Corinthians, "Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27). No Christian has any finer, purer, or more meaningful calling than to live as the church that Jesus sacrificed Himself to bring into existence.

*He wants us to glory in His cross.* Paul said, "But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation" (Galatians 6:14, 15). We are not to glory in our talents, our looks, our money, our accomplishments, our families, or our intellectual acumen. In heaven's celestial city, we will sing endless praises to the Lamb who has redeemed us; here, in earth's glorious, blood-bought church, we are to continually sing "Amazing Grace," standing in His grace in time in anticipation of rejoicing over His grace for all eternity.

*He wants us to take up our own crosses and follow Him.* Paul said, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the

flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me" (Galatians 2:20). When Jesus died on the cross, He set the true example for all of His disciples regarding how to do mission work. He showed us that salvation always requires a cross. Hence, there stands before each of us a cross and a throne. We must put ourselves on the cross in order to have Christ on the throne of our hearts.

Jesus intended that His cross be a beginning, not an ending—not a closed casket, but an open tomb. Through His death, He set in motion God's plan for the ages. When He died on the cross, the old age of looking forward to complete forgiveness ended and the new age of being "complete" in Him (Colossians 2:10) began. A passage in Hebrews says, "But now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Hebrews 9:26b). From now until Jesus comes to get us or until He calls us home, we have the privilege of living in the shadow of His cross—remembering it, looking into it, teaching it, glorying in it, living as a part of the body it created, and dying on our own so that others might live.

Eddie Cloer



"... 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing'" (Revelation 5:12).

"... 'To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever'" (Revelation 5:13).