



What Did Jesus Do to Save Us?

As we learned last time, God demanded a penalty for sin that we could not pay because we are sinful.

Jesus could pay the penalty because He was perfect and lived without sin just as God required. On the cross, the sinless Jesus, a perfect substitute, was punished by God for our sin,

Let's look again at the scene of Jesus on the cross. We'll look first at the passage we read together last week ([Matthew 27:11ff](#)) and then at the same story in the Gospel of John.

Jesus took our sin on Himself.

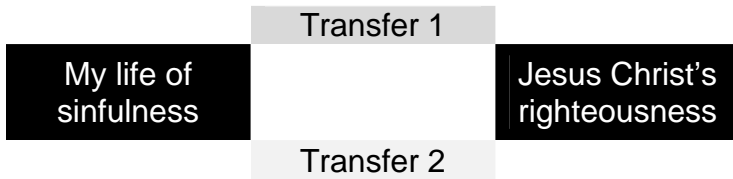
Jesus cries, *My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?* ([Matthew 27:46](#))

What is happening here?

The fact that Jesus took our sin on Himself was not the only transfer that occurred while He was on the cross. There is another side that is hard for us to understand. God not only took our sin and put it on Jesus, but He took Jesus' perfect life of obedience and put it on our account.

(2 Corinthians 5:21)

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.



A little later on the cross, Jesus cries out, *It is finished.*
(John 19:30)

What is He talking about?

The transfer of the penalty for sin

What Jesus did on the cross was very much like what God was trying to teach the people in the Old Testament. Let's turn back to **Leviticus 1**.

In the Old Testament, God used illustrations to teach His people truths that Jesus would later fill out for them. When people sinned, the penalty was death. However, God provided a way for them to pass the penalty on to another. Only it was to an animal, not to another person. In this chapter, God is telling Moses, the leader of the people of Israel, how the people were to do this.

Let's read vv. 1-5. The burnt offerings mentioned in v. 3 are offerings that people offered as a way to express their desire to draw near to God. But sin kept them from doing so.

Then the LORD called to Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying, ²Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When any man of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of animals from the herd or the flock. ³If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer it, a male without defect; he shall offer it at the doorway of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the LORD. ⁴He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, that it may be accepted for him to make atonement on his behalf. ⁵He shall slay the young bull before the LORD; and Aaron's sons the priests shall offer up the blood and sprinkle the blood around on the altar that is at the doorway of the tent of meeting.

**What should be the condition of the offered animal?
(v. 3)**

What was the desired result of the offering? (v. 3)

Before the animal was killed, what was necessary for the man to do? (v. 4)

Why was it necessary to do this? (v. 4)

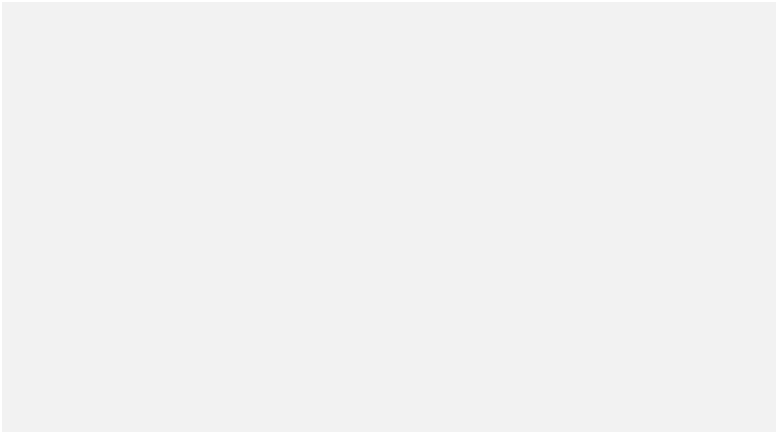
Then it was necessary for the man himself to kill the animal himself. (v. 5)

Why was this so?

This is a picture of what happened when Jesus died on the cross for men. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice. When we understand what He did so that we might be acceptable to God, we must be willing in our hearts to lay our sins on His head. He will transfer our sins to Himself, and His death is what takes away our sin so that we can be accepted by God.

Memory Verse

*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin
on our behalf, so that we might become the
righteousness of God in Him.
2 Corinthians 5:21*



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