
NUPTIAL MYSTERY

(MORE)

We are bought at a great price



God could have saved us by some other means. It was not absolutely necessary for Him to die on the Cross. He chose to do so. The Cross was the best way to bring about our redemption.

We think of salvation as simply being delivered from sin. That is what salvation is reduced to. If that is all that salvation was then the Passion would seem silly. The Passion shows man how much God loves us. God wants to manifest His love for you in the Passion. Man is stirred to love God in return. Greater love has no man than to lay down his life for his friends. St. Thomas Aquinas defines love as “to will the good of the other.” Love is a willful self-offering to another.

The greatest thing I can give is the gift of self. If God is going to manifest His love for us, then he can offer Himself. Through the Passion God does this. God gives himself out of that love, and this love moves us to make a gift of ourselves

back to Him. We will the good of ourselves back to God. God does not take our heart/love from us without us giving it to Him. The dimension of love is lost in modern society and culture. The greatest good God has to give us is Heaven itself, which entry into the life of the Trinity.

The Passion gives us an example of virtue. The example of self-giving, self-sacrificial love is seen in the Passion. God wants to change you. As human beings, we need a model of what it means to be humble, constant lovers of God. God doesn't ask us to do anything he hasn't done himself. The Cross would be too much to bear if we didn't realize God had already been there and done that. In the Cross, in giving us an example of virtue, God models to us that He understands what it means to suffer and he gives us the example of how to take the cross and do so with virtue.

The Passion merits grace and glory for man. Salvation is not just salvation *from* something but salvation *for* something. That is for a life of grace in which we can live now the life of glory in the Beatific Vision. The merits of the Cross are given to us because we are part of his Body, as members of his Church. Jesus

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merits not just for himself but for all of us. Suffering is something that is external, but something which changes it meritoriously is the interior disposition by making it an act of love and obedience.

What merits our forgiveness is the love of Christ. If he can say in Luke 7:47 that much would be forgiven because a woman loved much. How much would be forgiven for the love of Jesus? Christ loves us even though he sees us sinning against Him. God knows from all eternity all the sins which we commit in our lives.

The Crucifixion reveals the horrible consequences of sin. We want to downplay the consequences of sin. We make sin out as something not significant. Sins are

not a mistake. They are transgressions against God. Our sins lead to the Cross. Sins lead to the divine son of God going through the Passion.

It wouldn't be fair if God just overturned the devil, but it is more fitting that a man overtake the devil because a man was deceived by the devil. Adam and all of us deserve death. The very means by which we fell and the consequences are the tool by which we are redeemed. A man deserves death by result of sin. In the Passion, God takes the fear of death and makes that the means of salvation. The Devil is robbed of his greatest tool against us.

- Fr. Butler