

The Atonement in Matthew

Talk 1: Introduction and Matthew 26:1–56

Introduction

How should we talk about the death and resurrection of Jesus?

Recap from last night...

'At-onement' – the English word

'Atonement money' in Exodus 30:11–16, Matthew 17:24–27, 20:28

¹² "When you take the census of the people of Israel, then each shall *give a ransom for his life* to the LORD when you number them [...] ¹⁶ You shall take the atonement money from the people [...], so as to *make atonement for your lives*." (Exo 30:12-16 ESV)

Jesus's life given (i.e. his death) as a *ransom*, to obtain life for many

The meaning of 'to make atonement' in the sacrificial system...

¹¹ For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood *that makes atonement by the life*. (Lev 17:11 ESV)

Introduction to Matthew

Matthew's aim to make disciples of his readers...

Matthew's aim to make disciples who are disciple-makers...

The conceptual challenge

Matthew uses the terminology of ransom (20:28), salvation from sins (1:21) and forgiveness of sins (9:1–8, 12:31–32, 26:28).

But how does this connect with the language of redemption, propitiation, reconciliation and adoption we find elsewhere in the NT?

Introduction to Matthew 26–28

¹⁸ "See, we are going up to Jerusalem.

- 1) And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes,
- 2) and they will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified,
- 3) and he will be raised on the third day." (Mat 20:18-19 ESV)

26:1–56	Jesus's opponents plot against him, and his disciples desert him
The Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes	But Jesus is determined to complete the task he's been given
26:57–27:54	People shown to be under curse for their own actions, or (in the case of Jesus) for the sake of others
And they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified	Jesus condemned and mocked for his claims of kingship and divine sonship
27:55–28:20	The resurrection of Jesus is witnessed and uncovered for the whole world...
And he will be raised on the third day	He cannot remain buried and hidden



26:1–56 The Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes
The 'Scooby-Doo' or 'Super-Shaggy' sandwich...

Jesus's opponents plot against him, and his disciples desert him	26:1–5 Chief priests and elders	26:14–16 Judas	26:20–25 Jesus foretells betrayal	26:30–35 Jesus foretells desertion	26:47–56 Betrayal and desertion
But Jesus is determined to complete the task he's been given	26:6–13 Jesus anointed for burial	26:17–19 Jesus arranges Passover meal	26:26–29 Words at Lord's Supper	26:36–46 Gethsemane	

26:26–29 Jesus’s words at the Lord’s Supper

SENTENCE	26 Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke
SENTENCE	it and gave it to the disciples, and said,
SENTENCE	“Take, eat;
SENTENCE	[TP <■ this ■> TP] is my body.” ”
SENTENCE	27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying,
SENTENCE	“Drink of it, all of you,
SUPPORT	28 for [TP <■ this ■> TP] is my blood of the covenant, <■ which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ■>
SENTENCE	29 <■ I tell you ■> <× I will not drink again of <■ this fruit ■> of the vine ×> <✓ until <→ <■ that day ■> →>
SUB-POINT	when <⊙ I drink [TP it TP] new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” ⊙> ✓> ”

- The body
- The blood of the covenant
- The forgiveness of sins

26:36–46 Gethsemane

SENTENCE	36 Then Jesus <⊙ went ⊙> with them to a place called Gethsemane,
SENTENCE	and <⊙ he said ⊙> to his disciples,
SENTENCE	“Sit here, while I go over <■ there ■> and pray.” ”
SENTENCE	37 And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled.
SENTENCE	38 Then <⊙ he said ⊙> to them,
SENTENCE	“My soul is very sorrowful, even to death;
SENTENCE	remain <■ here, ■>
SENTENCE	and watch with me.” ”
SENTENCE	39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying,
SENTENCE	“ <■ “My Father, <■ [CD if it be possible, CD] let <■ this cup ■> pass from me;
PRINCIPLE	nevertheless, <× not as I will, ×> but <✓ as you ✓> ” will.”

- The cup
- The necessity of Jesus’s death
- (Since a sin-bearing, curse-bearing death, then the necessity of punishing sin.)

The Atonement in Matthew

Talk 2: Matthew 26:57–27:54

How should we *feel* about the death of Jesus?

26:57–27:54 And they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified

People shown to be under curse for their own actions, or (in the case of Jesus) for the sake of others	26:57–58 Peter	26:69–75 Peter	27:3–10 Judas	27:15–26 Crowd	27:32–38 Guards (Jesus crucified)	27:45–54 Centurion (Jesus dies)
Jesus condemned and mocked for his claims of kingship and divine sonship	26:59–68 Before High Priest	27:1–2 Led to Pilate	27:11–14 Before Pilate	27:27–31 Mocked by guards	27:39–44 Mocked by by-standers	

Peter: calling down curses upon himself

SENTENCE ⁷⁴Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear,
SENTENCE " "I do not know the man." "
SENTENCE And immediately **the rooster** crowed.

Judas: under a curse and giving in to a curse

COMPLEX ³Then when Judas, <👤 his betrayer, 👤 saw
SUB-POINT that Jesus was condemned,
CIRCUMSTANCE he changed his mind and
SENTENCE brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, ⁴saying,
SENTENCE " "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood
SENTENCE "."^[TP] They^[TP] said,
SENTENCE " "**What** is that to us?
SENTENCE See to it **yourself.**" "
SENTENCE ⁵And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed,
SENTENCE and he went and hanged himself.

Deuteronomy 27:25

SENTENCE ²⁵ \ " 'Cursed be **anyone who takes a bribe to shed innocent blood.**' '
SENTENCE And all the people shall say,
SENTENCE \ 'Amen.' '



Deuteronomy 21:22–23

COMPLEX	22 ^[CD] “And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death
SUB-POINT	and he is put to death,
SUB-POINT	and you hang him on a tree, ^[CD]
SENTENCE	23 his body shall not remain all night on the tree,
SUPPORT	but ^[CD] ^[CD] you shall bury him the same day, ^[CD]
SUPPORT	for ^[CD] a hanged man ^[CD] is cursed by God.
SENTENCE	You shall not defile your land
SUB-POINT	^[CD] that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance. ^[CD]

Execution and hanging for exposure

27:15–26 The crowd: calling down a curse upon itself

SENTENCE	25 And all the people ^[CD] answered ^[CD] ,
SENTENCE	“ ^[CD] “His blood ^[CD] be on us and on our children!” ”

27:32–38 The guards: *crucifying Jesus and keeping watch* Deuteronomy 21:22–23 again: execution and hanging for exposure 'perfected' in the practice of crucifixion

27:45–54 The centurion (and others) witnessing the death of Jesus

The 'cry of dereliction'

SENTENCE	45 ^[TM] Now from the sixth hour ^[TM] there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.
SENTENCE	46 ^[TM] And about the ninth hour ^[TM] Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying,
SENTENCE	“ ^[CD] “Eli, Eli, ^[CD] lema sabachthani? ” ”
SENTENCE	^[TP] that ^[TP] is,
SENTENCE	^[CD] “My God, my God, ^[CD] why have you forsaken me?”

Forsakenness leading to despair? Or vindication?

The tearing of the Temple veil and the breaking out of the tombs

SENTENCE	50 ^[TP] And Jesus ^[TP] cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.
SENTENCE	51 And <↑ behold, ↓> the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.
SENTENCE	And ^[TP] the earth ^[TP] shook,
SENTENCE	and ^[TP] the rocks ^[TP] were split.
SENTENCE	52 ^[TP] The tombs ^[TP] also were opened.
SENTENCE	And ^[TP] many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep ^[TP] were raised,
SENTENCE	53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into <↑&↓> the holy city <↑&↓>
SENTENCE	and appeared to many.
SENTENCE	54 ^[TP] When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, ^[TP] saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said,
SENTENCE	“Truly <↑ this ↓> was the Son of God! ” “

Falling wrath leading to *judgment* brought forward or *life* brought forward?

The pattern

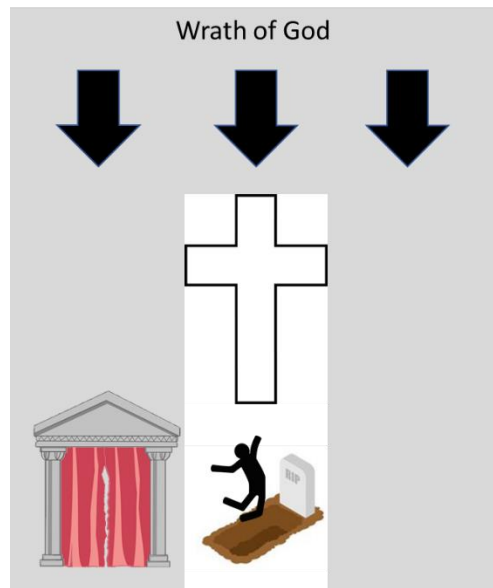
Curse (Peter)-curse (Judas)-curse (crowd) -curse (Jesus)-curse (Jesus)

The Atonement in Matthew

Talk 3: Matthew 27:55–28:20

How should the death and resurrection of Jesus shape our lives now?

Recap: the curse related effects of Jesus’s curse-bearing death



27:55–28:20 And he will be raised on the third day

The resurrection of Jesus is witnessed and uncovered for the whole world...	27:55–56 At cross (1 st day)	27:61 At tomb (1 st day)	28:1 At tomb (3 rd day)	28:5–10 See Jesus (3 rd day)	28:16–20 See Jesus The Great Commission
He cannot remain buried and hidden	27:57–60 Burial	27:62–66 Guards posted	28:2–4 Tomb opened; Guards stunned	2:11–15 False report exposed	

Participating in the Servant Work of Jesus Part I

¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors. (Isa 53:11-12 ESV)

	Death (Tribulation)	Resurrection (Vindication)
Jesus	Bearing sin/ death/ curse Ransom 'paid'	Vindicated with life
His Followers	Curse taken away Sins Forgiven Humanity restored	Resurrection Life guaranteed

Participating in the Servant Work of Jesus Part II

⁶ ...he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." (Isa 49:6 ESV)

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Mat 28:16-20 ESV)

What have we gained from learning about the atonement this way?

More about Jesus

More about ourselves

Before

After

Discussion Questions

Review Questions

1. How would you currently explain what Jesus achieved through his death and resurrection and how he achieved it?
2. Jesus says he came to give his life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28). What does this tell us about the 'many'?
3. Jesus describes the wine in the Passover meal as his 'blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins' (Matthew 26:28). Why does he say this?
4. How do we know for sure that there was no other way for God to achieve his purposes other than Jesus drinking the 'cup' of his wrath?
5. What's the picture is Matthew painting of humanity through his descriptions of Peter, the chief priests (and scribes and elders), Judas, Pilate, the soldiers and the crowd?
6. How does Matthew show Jesus dying under the curse of God? And how do we know it was a curse-bearing death?
7. How does Matthew then show the life that comes from this becoming known? And what role do we play?

Application Questions

How does this change how you think about:

8. Yourself?
9. Jesus?
10. What happened on the cross? (How would you explain it now?)
11. Your identity as a follower / disciple of Jesus?
12. Your purpose in life?