

Read again the story of the death of your Lord. Matthew 27:1-54.

As you see Him dying there for you, can you reject Him as your Saviour? He has done everything possible for the Supreme God of the universe to do to buy us back; He paid the price for our sin and rebellion. Must He have died in vain? Will you reach out by faith and accept His sacrifice in your behalf?

Years ago a traveling band of Gypsies came to a rain-swollen river. The only bridge looked old and dangerous, but it was the only way across the river. When one wagon was in the middle of the span, the bridge collapsed, dumping the Gypsy family and wagon into the turbulent river below. The wagon had carried a mother and her son, who was a strong young man and an able swimmer. The mother was old and weak, so the water swept her down the river. Several times her head went under. The son swiftly swam to her side and tried to save her, but in her fear and frenzy she would grab her son and pull him under the water with her. He would pull away and try again, but each time the same thing happened. Then one last twist of the current pulled the mother away and under, never to be seen again. As the other people in the Gypsy band pulled the boy ashore, they heard him say, "I tried to save herr, but she wouldn't let me."

God forbid that Christ should say that about any of us today, "I tried to save him, but he wouldn't let Me." Why not drop to your knees right now and ask Him to save you? Tell Him how much you love Him for this great sacrifice in your behalf.

Would you like to indicate your response to this lesson?

I do love Christ for what He was willing to do for me. ☐

I want His sacrifice for me not to have been in vain. ☐

I accept His sacrifice on my behalf. ☐

COMMENTS:

Published and
Distributed by **FPM** P.O.Box 162685 Altamonte Springs, FL 32716



Steps to Eternal Life

He Took Your Place / 3

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*Always pray before opening your Bible.
Find the text in your Bible and write the answer.*

Two men who lived in France many years ago were close friends. As time passed, one of them was imprisoned by the government. He was tried for a crime against the state, found guilty, and sentenced to death. There was no way to escape from the prison.

The prisoner's friend had not forgotten him. He had devised an ingenious scheme to save his friend from dying. He gained permission to visit the condemned man in his prison cell. While he was alone with his friend, he exchanged clothes with the prisoner and took his place in the cell. The prisoner walked out of the prison a free man.

The next day the friend was executed in the condemned man's place, while the former prisoner fled the country. He had been set free because a friend loved him enough to take his place and die in his stead so that he would not have to pay the penalty of his crime.

Jesus said, in John 15:13, 14: "The greatest love a man can have for his friends is to give his life for them. And you are My friends, if you do what I command you." Our opening story is an imperfect example of what our friend Jesus did for us. He left the courts of glory above and came down to this prison house of sin and took our place because He loved us so much. He died that He might free us from the penalty of sin, which is death.

Let's take a look at what the Bible says about God's willingness to sacrifice so that we might become His sons once again and live with Him throughout eternity.