

④ ① The Cross — "the most wretched of deaths" (Titus Vespasian)
Cicero "Never let a person speak the word cross in polite company." It was a curse death for slaves & murderers

The word "excruciating" comes from the Greek ^{language} meaning cross — it was the most excruciating pain

(Read from "The Master" — John Fallock)

I think that Christ had ample cause to sweat drops of blood if for no other reason than that — He was facing the horror of crucifixion

② But there was something that Christ considered worse than the crucifixion

Q → Have you ever done something really bad — sinful — and you can hardly believe you did it — you feel

eg guilty — so guilty that you run from it or get drunk to try & forget what you did

~~But~~ ^{however} we are sinners — we sin every day in thought, word & deed — so we are used to our own grossness, ~~even though we do~~

But what about God? — God has never sinned. He abhors sin. Christ had never known what it was like to do something wrong — he had never felt guilt. Of course, He had been around evil — He was experiencing the effects of evil men at this very time. But He Himself had never done wrong (Heb. 4:15-16) — Been tempted in all points as we are yet without sin

the most exciting part of the course

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Christ knew that He was going to come into intimate contact with sin - that was a horror to face - enough to make him sweat drops of blood. He was God - He had never contacted sin - yet He was voluntarily taking all the sins of all mankind upon Himself -

(I Pet 2:24) "He bore our sins in His own Body on the Cross" - sin is an integral part of each of our bodies - Jesus took that sin into His own Body - He became guilty for every sin of every person.

Christ was like that O.T. ^{sacrificial} lamb - where the sins of the people would flow into the lamb & it was killed in their place - Christ is called "The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world".

(Rom. 3:23) "The wages of sin is death" - Jesus took those wages - ~~at~~ He died for all of us.

Ex. Barabbas was a thief & a murderer - he was the one Pilate stood up beside Jesus & asked "Who shall I free - this murderer or Jesus - your king, this innocent man?" They cried "Give us Barabbas".

Pilate "What shall I do with this innocent man?" "Crucify him!" So Pilate gave in.

That cross Jesus carried, was made for Barabbas - so in a real sense Barabbas got a substitute - he was freed - Jesus died in his place.

Barabbas is a picture of all of us. Rembrandt, the great artist painted a picture "The Raising of Christ". He painted his own face - it was his sins - mine - yours.

Barabbas

⑥ So Jesus realized that all of our sins were going to be streaming into Him (not symbolically like the O.T. lamb) but He really was going to become sin. No wonder He dreaded that "cup" & prayed that if there was "any way this cup could pass from Me - nevertheless not My will but Yours be done"

(Jo. ^{my soul is troubled} 12:27) - what shall I say - 'Father save me from this hour?' But for this purpose I came to this hour
(II Cor. 5:21) Made Him who knew no sin

to become sin so we could become the K of God
This "cup" of sin was a horror to Christ - he became the incarnation of sin

③ This ~~was~~ was not the worst horror Jesus had to face.

Sin is ~~revolting~~ revolting to God - it angers Him - He judges sin

→ "at the wrath of God the earth shall tremble"

So in (Mk. 15:35) we see that darkness falls from 12 noon to 3:00 P.M. - a sign of God's judgment & then Jesus cried out

"My God, My God why have you forsaken Me?"

The earth trembled = an earthquake

It was ^{at this time} now even the Father rejected Christ - He was truly all alone - God The Father cannot fellowship = sin incarnate

What a horror! This is the true content of that "cup" Jesus ~~wanted~~ dreaded so much. It was full of God's Divine wrath & judgment on all our sins - & Christ was willing to be born from His own Essence - His own Character