

How Jesus death more than 2000 years ago can affect us today

Many years ago in the 1980s a similar situation would occur. At that time in Britain there was a major industrial dispute that resulted in much violence against the police and much rioting, led by a very well-known union leader.

Because of his conduct he was summoned to appear before a judge to answer for his conduct. The sentence (had he received one) would have without doubt had to have been served in Prison. However, the union leader refused to obey the law and a summons was issued against him, imposing on top of any other penalty a heavy fine. The union leader still refused to appear in court despite all of this.

However, the judge in this case received a sum of money equal to the fine that should have been imposed on the union leader. It was paid by a man who had nothing what so ever to do with the dispute in question, but by law the judge was obliged to accept the money as punishment for the conduct of the union leader and all charges against that man were dropped.

When Jesus went to the cross for us more than 2000 years ago He took upon Himself the penalty that each one of us should have been given, but because an innocent man paid the penalty that the guilty should have received it was counted in God's eyes as paying the penalty for our sin and not only do we go free and unpunished but all charges the devil tries to bring against us are dropped because the penalty has been paid.

Just as that union man had the option of refusing to allow the one who paid his penalty to do what he did, so it is with Jesus. We can take the penalty of our sin upon ourselves if we want to, the penalty being eternal death and separation from God and to be cast into the lake of fire forever, or we can put our faith and trust in what Jesus did for us in paying the penalty on our behalf all those years ago.

If we put our faith and trust in what He did on our behalf then we go free and when God looks at believers He sees not their sin but the penalty that has been paid on their behalf – the blood of Jesus, thus we go free with all charges against us dropped. In the case of Barabbas the result was temporary, for those who put their faith and trust in what Jesus has done for us, the cleansing is eternal.

We could not take the penalty of our sin upon ourselves, knowing this the evil one had us permanently in fear of death and facing God on judgement day. Because of what Jesus has done we need fear these things no more for as the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans chapter 8 verse 1 "There is therefore now, no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (those who continue to put their faith and trust in what Jesus has done for them and live in fellowship with Him and all other believers).

This is just one of the works of the evil one that Jesus has destroyed, our fear of death and condemnation. Only Jesus could have paid this penalty for us and next time we will look at the

scriptures again and see how He alone was qualified to take our sins upon Himself in order to set us free forever. The evil one **cannot** reverse what Jesus has done for us nor our faith and trust in it.