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# Why?

## LUKE 10:25-27

### Introduction

1. Kids love to ask questions.
2. One of the questions they never seem to tire of asking is the question, "Why?"
  - a. Why is the sky blue?
  - b. Why is the ocean so big?
3. The week before last, our Bible study at Leatherwood Bible Camp focused around one passage of Scripture, Luke 10:27.

“And he [a lawyer] answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”” (Luke 10:27, NASB95)

4. All week long, we talked in our Bible classes, our worship services and our fireside devotionals about what it meant to love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, and how we were to love our neighbor as ourselves.
5. My question to you this morning is the same I asked those at our worship that Friday night is "Why?"
6. One answer according to the lawyer is that this is the way to eternal life.
7. This morning, I want you to consider another answer to the question, "Why?"
8. In 1 John 4:11, the apostle John wrote, "we ought to love one another."
9. Again, my question is "Why?"
10. At the beginning of that verse, John says this, "Beloved, if God so loved us . . ."
11. How did God "so love us"? If you look at the verse just before this one, John tells us: "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His

Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:10, NASB95)

13. Why should we love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind? Why should we love our neighbor as we love ourselves? Because God loved us first and sent His Son to save us.
14. This morning, in the few moments we have left, I want to walk you through the last 16 or so hours of our Lord's life, because if anything demonstrates God's love for us, Jesus' words and actions do.

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### A. EVENTS IN THE GARDEN

1. Prayer to His Father
  - a. After leaving the upper room, Jesus and eleven of His disciples made their way out of the city, across the Brook of Kidron to the Mount of Olives where there was a garden, known as Gethsemane (*olive press*).
  - b. Jesus left eight of his disciples at the outer edge of the garden and took Peter, James & John further into the garden where He told them to wait and pray.
  - c. He went a little further and according to Matthew, He "fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will." " (Matthew 26:39, NASB95)
  - d. Luke said that because He was in such "agony" and was praying so "fervently . . . His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground" (Luke 22:44).
  - e. Because of the mental anguish He was in, "an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him" (Luke 22:43).
  - f. Three times He prayed; three times he went to check on Peter, James and John; three times He found them asleep.
  - g. The last time He came to the three, He said to them, "Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!" (Matthew 26:46).

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## 2. Arresting Party

- a. While all this was going on, Judas Iscariot was leading a large group to the garden where he would identify Jesus for them so they could arrest Him.
- b. Roman cohort (only John tells us of these men)
  - 1) Full strength — 1,000 men ((i.e. 760 foot soldiers and 240 cavalry)
  - 2) Typical strength — 600 men
  - 3) Smallest number — 200 (known as a *maniple*)
- c. "Officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees"
  - 1) The "temple police" who were responsible for maintaining order around the temple.
  - 2) They had the primary responsibility for arresting Jesus.
- d. These troops and perhaps some others went to the garden that night armed with "lanterns and torches and weapons," some even carried "clubs" (Matthew 26:47).
  - 1) There was a full moon that night. No doubt, they expected Jesus to run.
  - 2) However, Jesus went out to meet them. Notice what John says about His encounter with them (John 18:4-8)

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## 3. Peter's Attempt To Defend Jesus

- a. In the midst of all this, Peter suddenly decided to respond.
- b. He pulled it out and swung at the person nearest to him who just happened to be a servant of the High Priest — His name was Malchus.
- c. Malchus tried to get out of the way, but Peter managed to cut off his ear.
- d. Jesus told Peter to "Put [your] sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?" (John 18:11). "All those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword" (Matthew 26:52).

- e. He also said something else, "Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? "How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?" (Matthew 26:53–54, NASB95)

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## B. TRIALS

1. Annas
  - a. Annas wanted to know about Jesus' disciples and His teaching.
  - b. Jesus told him, "Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret. "Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; they know what I said." (John 18:20–21, NASB95)
  - c. Suddenly, "one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus, saying, "Is that the way You answer the high priest?" (John 18:22).
  - d. This is the first time anywhere in the Gospels I read of Jesus being struck (slapped). Why did the Son of God allow Himself to be slapped?
  - e. Annas then sent Jesus to Caiaphas, the high priest recognized by Rome.

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2. Caiaphas
  - a. "Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, so that they might put Him to death." (Matthew 26:59, NASB95)
  - b. Jesus kept silent.
  - c. Look at Matthew 26:63-66 to see how they obtained the verdict they wanted.

- d. What did they do to Jesus? "They spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him" (Matthew 26:67).
- e. Why did Jesus allow them to do this? Because He loved us so.

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3. Pilate

- a. Pilate wanted nothing to do with Jesus.
- b. He tried every way he could to get out of having to pass sentence on Him.
- c. Finally, Pilate had Jesus scourged, a type of punishment we would consider inhuman today.
- d. After this, the whole Roman cohort gathered in the Praetorium, put a purple robe on Jesus, a crown of thorns on his head and a reed in His hand as a mock scepter.
- e. They "knelt down before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" (Matthew 27:29).
- f. "They spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head." (Matthew 27:30).
- g. Then they led Him away to be crucified.

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**C. CRUCIFIXION**

- 1. When Jesus reached the place where He was to be crucified, and Luke simply said, "they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left" (Luke 23:33).
- 2. Listen to what Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing" (John 23:34).

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- 3. As Jesus hung on the cross, four groups of people mocked Him:
  - a. Passers By

"And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." (Matthew 27:39-40, NASB95)

**b. Chief Priests**

"He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him. "He trusts in God; let God rescue Him now, if He delights in Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.' "" (Matthew 27:42-43, NASB95)

**c. Criminals Crucified Beside Him**

"The robbers who had been crucified with Him were also insulting Him with the same words" (Matthew 27:44).

**d. The Soldiers**

"The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine, and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!" (Luke 23:36-37, NASB95)

4. Why did Jesus stay on that cross? Why did He endure all the abuse?
5. Let me share with you a hymn which answers those questions:

**Why did the Savior heaven leave  
And come to earth below  
Where men His grace would not receive?  
Because He loves me so!**

**Why did the Savior mark the way,  
And why temptation know?  
Why teach and toil and plead and pray?  
Because He loves me so!**

**Why feel the garden's dreadful dross?  
Why thru His trials go?**

**Why suffer death upon the cross?  
Because He loves me so!**

**Chorus:**

**He loves me! He loves me! He loves me this I know!  
He gave Himself to die for me, Because He loves me so!**

## **Conclusion**

1. Why should you love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind? Why should you love your neighbor as yourself?

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2. Because God loves you. He loves you so much, His Son was willing to come here and die for you.

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” (1 John 4:10–11, NASB95)

3. He loves those around you also, those Jesus calls our neighbors.
4. He wants us to love them and point them to Him.
5. This morning, will you respond to that love. Are you willing to commit the rest of your life to Him?
6. If so, please come to Him in obedient faith.