# Why He Must Be Lifted Up

**Joshua Creel** · John 3:14–16 · Series: **Grace Isn't Cheap**

## INTRODUCTION

- Grace, the word, is not found in that passage, but the whole passage is really about grace.
- This morning we want to look, begin looking at the costly nature of that grace. And we're emphasizing today what grace costs God.
- As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes will in him have eternal life.

## 1 The Same Problem, Consequence and Solution

**Numbers 21:5–9; John 3:14; Romans 8:3**

- The first parallel is the problem. Why is it that the serpents were coming into the camp? Because Israel continually sinned against their God.
- The other parallel is the consequence of sin. The consequence of Israel was many died because of their sin.
- The problem's the same. Sin in the camp. The consequences of the problem are the same. Death. And so God says, I will give a common solution.
- What is causing our spiritual death? Us. We're the ones causing our own spiritual death. And so what must be erected? The likeness of us.

## 2 Only the Son Was a Sacrifice

**Leviticus 1:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 1:19**

- Only the Son was a sacrifice. The serpent wasn't a sacrifice at all.
- Only that which was without defect could be accepted before God as a sacrifice.
- He made him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.
- We were redeemed with the precious blood as of a lamb, unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

## 3 Why a Cross? Not Only Die, but Suffer

**Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53:5; Mark 15:34**

- Why a cross? Why the most gruesome instrument of torture that man had ever devised? Why a slow, painful death rather than dying quickly.
- Yes, you're going to die. And it's going to be a painful, arduous process in finally reaching that death.
- Not only must Jesus die, he must suffer.
- Because sin brought about not just death, but all of the suffering that goes along with death.
- This is why we proclaim that the grace of God is not cheap.

## 4 God Gave the Most Costly Gift

**John 3:16; 1 Peter 5:10**

- God gave him to come and to suffer like none other had suffered or would ever suffer.
- God gave the greatest and the most costly gift that could ever be given.

## 5 Jesus Gave

**John 10:17–18**

- It is the Father's gift, and yet, this is not an injust gift.
- I lay it down on my own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.
- If he were forced to give his life, then it's an unjust act. But he willingly gave it. And as such, it is a sacrifice.
- God gave his son. Jesus gave his life. And nothing more costly has ever been given. Grace is not cheap.

## 6 One Final Parallel: Whoever Believes

**John 3:14–15; John 12:32**

- Moses erecting that fiery serpent among the people required something of the people.
- Indicating that you could reject it.
- Jesus is now saying, I must be lifted up so that if you will believe, you will have eternal life.
- And if I am lifted up, I will draw all men to myself.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **Would you accept the greatest gift that could ever be given to you? The very grace of God.**

MY NOTES