

Palm/Passion Sunday

If we lift up the idea “Jesus died **for** your sins” there are some problems:

That phrase became the foundation for:

- substitution theology
- guilt-based salvation
- the belief that someone else must handle your self growth

And build on one English word: **for**. But the Bible wasn’t written in English.

The phrase “for our sins” uses ὑπέρ (huper) and sometimes διά (dia). Neither word means “instead of your.” Neither implies substitution.

ὑπέρ = because of, on account of
διά = because of, due to

Read that again: Jesus didn’t die *for* your sins, he died **because** of them.

Aramaic word, which Jesus spoke as his daily language, for “sin”: het/hetta, meaning misalignment, missing your true self, acting from fear instead of God. Not guilt. Not depravity, just disconnection.

The Meaning of "Chet": In Hebrew and Aramaic, the root chet-tet-alef (as in chet) is frequently used in biblical texts to mean "to miss" or "to miss the mark" (like an archer missing a target). It serves as a metaphor for becoming misaligned with your divine purpose or your authentic self, rather than being an inherent state of “evil”.

Misalignment vs. "Missing": When you feel you are "missing" your true self, it is often interpreted not as a permanent loss, but as a temporary state of being "off-center". This misalignment manifests as feeling stuck, anxious, or disconnected from your values, desires, and inner voice.

Returning (Teshuva): The traditional remedy for this misalignment is teshuva, which literally means "to return". This is not about fixing yourself as if you are broken, but about removing the "noise" or "ego"

(the prison erected around the self) to remember who you already are.

Jesus died because humanity refused to take responsibility for its own shadow, continuing to be disconnected from God. Fear killed Jesus. Ego killed Jesus, avoidance killed Jesus. Not God.

If you believe he died *instead* of your responsibility...you remain unchanged.

But if he died *because of your disconnection* then the invitation is different:

Stop and breathe, if you feel “off” and disconnected, take a moment to invite God’s Holy Spirit to be with you and just pause.

Jewish philosophy emphasizes that reality is shaped when your makhshava (thought), dibbur (speech), and ma'aseh (action) are unified. To move back into alignment, check if your outward life reflects your inner truth. Your inner truth is your connection to the Holy Spirit.

Stop blaming yourself and take a small step into an action that reflects your inner heart. Give thanks for Christ and reconnect your inner, made in the image of God self and reflect it a little more in a visible way.

Palm/Passion Sunday John 19:16b-22
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