

## Were You There When Jesus was on the Cross?

↪ **John 15:22-39**, the cross is the central symbol of our faith. There are many symbols that come from this final passion week: Palm branches, Lord's Supper, towel and bowl, but there is nothing that comes close to the cross. Why the cross? It's not the cross but Who died for us on it that makes it special.

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### **1. John 15:22-39, why is the cross our central symbol?**

- ✓ In Acts, after Jesus rose and started the church, the preaching of the cross was central to the early church **Acts 2:36; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:18; Galatians 5:11; Galatians 6:12; Ephesians 2:16; Philippians 3:18; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:22-24.**

### **2. The cross is central because of what else was hung there.**

- ✓ Jesus hung on the cross, but it was what He was hung there for that makes all the difference. Rome killed thousands on crosses; all were hung there for their own crimes, but Jesus hung there for our crimes.

### **3. The cross is central because it was there that our sins were paid for.**

- ✓ Why can't God just forgive the debt of sin? If our Creator were truly generous, couldn't he just move on without repayment? Live and let live? This demonstrates an ignorance of debt, God's forgiveness required Him to pay for our sins instead of us.

### **4. The cross is central because it reveals that there is no limit to the forgiveness and love of God.**

**Jesus died for all of us; because Jesus loves all of us, John 3:16.**

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