



## *Essential Evangelization*

### **The Passion**

Just the night before, He celebrated Passover dinner with His friends. He tried to explain His mission, God's New Covenant, where everything would change. He tried to explain where He was going and even to prepare a place for them. And for you and me. But they did not quite understand. And later that evening in His agony, they slept.

Before the night was over He was gravely betrayed by one of those friends. He was abandoned by most all of the rest, and when the going got tough, His top man denied that he even knew Him. Three times! The entire crowd jeered and wanted the blood of this perfectly innocent Lamb.

And to those who beat Him, and drove the nails into His feet and wrists, He loved and forgave. He endured the most horrific torture ever devised by Satan; first by a braided whip, a crown of thorns and finally the excruciating pain, suffocation and final exhaustion on the cross. He knew what it meant to be misunderstood and not appreciated. He knew what it was like to be falsely accused. And yet through it all, He never stopped loving. He was full of love and forgiveness to the very end. So that the perfect justice of God would finally be satisfied. Love overcame justice by the obedience of one perfect Man. The God Man. In perfect love, He did it all for you and me.

In this New Covenant, there is nothing we can do to earn our place in heaven. None of us can do life without coming up short on the love and obedience demanded by God's perfect plan. That is why it took the Perfect Man. He stood in our place and paid the ultimate all for you and me. And all we have to do is believe in the One who stretched out His arms and loved us that much.

*"In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we may have life through him."*

1 John 4:9

*This is one of a series of articles on  
Evangelization from the  
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