



One Chose to Die

"I am the Good Shepherd: the Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep." John 10:11

Here's a thought for you: There's only been one individual who lived on this earth who actually chose to die. Now, you could say, "But wait a minute Kurt, Muslim suicide pilots have chosen to die for their lame cause and other people have also chosen to die. People have died by their own hand and some not desiring death have even selflessly given of themselves and died while rescuing others."

You're absolutely right. That's all true, but no one has really chosen to die except our sinless Lord—He was the one who didn't have to die and didn't deserve to die. In fact, He didn't even have to come down to this earth and become a man. And I'm sure that Jesus didn't feel like dying either.

*Remember how He prayed in the garden—it was prayer verbalized for the purpose of making sure that the cross really was the Father's specific route for Him. He cried out, **"O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will"** (Matt. 26:39 nkjv). Think about how noble that was! Some people have chosen to die a little sooner than they would have normally died if they lived out their years, but nobody has actually chosen to die that never had to die at all, except for one lovely Person. And He selflessly did this for you and for me! That's why I love the cross and love to talk about it! Go ahead and call me a fanatic if you will, but if you haven't noticed it yet we are living in a world where not too many selfless benevolent acts take place any more. The cross indeed stands out over all the deeds of all of history because of that choice.*

You know how the Bible says, "For the wages of sin is death..." (Rom. 6:23). The basic takeaway of any wrongdoing is dying, but Jesus did all things right. You also know that no human among us or that came before us, would have died at all ... if only Adam and Eve had not disobeyed and done wrong. My point? We have all blown it and need a loving Savior. You've heard it said before that it wasn't the nails that held Christ to that Calvary's tree—it was the tender cords of love and the strong bonds of redemption that held Him there.

And because of that love, you can turn from all your wrongdoings and personally get to know this selfless Christ today. I recommend it! Don't wait another day. The fact that no one has ever chosen to die except Jesus may be a new idea for you. If so, it will probably be new, as well, to someone you know. Please share it with someone this week so they can come to enjoy newness of life in Him!

*In the Fisher's mighty hand,
kurt*

