

SERMON NOTES

**Title: The Forgotten Tree
of Christmas**

Topic: The Cross of Christ

Teacher: Pastor Barry

Time: 12/04/22

File Under: Seasonal, Christmas



“We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.” Acts 10:39

The Christmas tree has become an important part of celebration of Christmas. Most people who still have a live tree look for the perfect tree. One woman’s criteria for choosing a tree is a bit different. She said *“I never look for a perfect tree...*

*I look for a tree that **needs me**, then I make it **beautiful**.”*

The cross that Jesus died on is referred to as a **tree** in scripture.

Acts 5:30, Peter speaking, *“The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, who you killed and hanged on a **tree**”*

Galatians 3:13, *“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us; for it is written, cursed is everyone that hangs on a **tree**.”*

Acts 13:29, *“They took him down from the **tree** and laid him in a tomb.”*

I Peter 2:24, *“He himself bore our sins in his body on the **tree**..”*

At Christmas we celebrate the baby born in Bethlehem, but the baby **grew up**.

Jesus’s death was not an **accident**. He gave his life as a **ransom** for our **sin**.

Without the **tree in Jerusalem** the **manger in Bethlehem** would have little or no significance.

Christmas Mourning

*On Christmas day I weep,
Good Friday to rejoice.
I watch the child asleep.
Does He half dream the choice,
The Man must make and keep?*

*At Christmas-time I sigh,
For my Good Friday hope.
Out flung the Child’s arms lie,
To span in their brief scope,
The death the Man must die.*

*Come Christmastide I groan,
To hear Good Friday’s pealing.
The Man, racked to the bone,
Has made His hurt my healing,
Has made my ache His own.*

*Slay me, pierced to the core,
With Christmas penitence,
So I who, new-born, soar,
To that Child’s innocence,
May wound the Man no more.*

Vassar Miller,
a twentieth century American Poet