

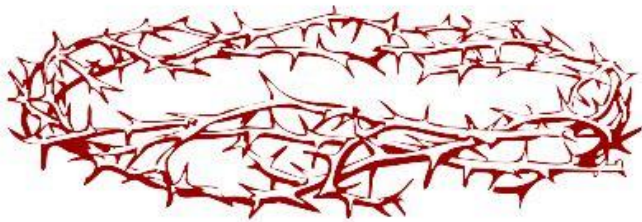
The Liar's Club

My parents called it “the meeting of the liar’s club.” Whenever something happened in my childhood home and no one would claim responsibility, my parents would line the four siblings up to try and find out whom the guilty party was. None of us would “tell” on each other, but more often than not, I would break into a smile. I couldn’t help myself. Even though I wasn’t often responsible for the misdeed, I shouldered the blame because my smile made me look guilty.”

One of my favorite Mercy’s Well songs is called “On My Cross.” The lyrics to the chorus say, “Those were my nails ...that was my crown that pierced your hands, and your brow. ... And just as you said it would be, you did it all for me.... You took my shame, my blame, on my cross.” And why did He do that: because He loves me.”



Jesus takes the blame for my sins. The nails driven through his hands were deserved by me. The lashings he endured should have been endured by me. Because of his love for me, (as the songs says), “He did it all for me. He took it all on my cross.” Did you catch whose cross it was? It was mine, and he substituted himself for me.



In my liar’s club analogy I cannot claim that I was innocent and thus wrongly accused. In our communion liturgy it is said, “*Those who claim we are without sin, the truth is not in us*” (1 John 1:8). I stand before God, guilty of many sins. Jesus was the only innocent one that will have ever lived. Yet, it was Jesus who took on my sins and He went to my cross for me. As the song says,

“You took my shame and my blame, on the cross.” “And you did it all for me.”

Our pastor often says, if I was the only one who sinned and fell short of the glory of God, Jesus would have sacrificed himself for me. Just me. But, it is not just for me. It is much broader than that. “On My Cross” says it so well. The opening line starts out, “How wide is your love that you would stretch your arms, and go around the world.” I invite you to join the liar’s club, too. Line us all up before the judge. We’re all guilty and in need of a Savior. Jesus will innocently smile that “guilty smile” and take our punishment. His love is as wide as the world. It is your cross, too.

Scripture: *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit (1 Peter 3:18).*

Question: If you repent, do you believe Jesus will take on your sins?

Prayer: Heavenly Father. We sin every day. Try as hard as we can, we still fall short. We thank you for the sacrifice of your Son Jesus Christ, so that we might live. Amen.

