

Gospel of Matthew “The Cross and the Veil”
Matthew 27:45-54
July 28, 2024

Matthew 27:45-54

45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.
46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” 47 And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.” 48 And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. 49 But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”
50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.
51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52 The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, 53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. 54 When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

We understand who Jesus is through the cross.

Amos 8:9, 10

9 “And on that day,” declares the Lord God,
“I will make the sun go down at noon
and darken the earth in broad daylight...”

10 I will make it like the mourning for an only son
and the end of it like a bitter day.

Plague of darkness.

Matthew 27:46

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

The separation in Eden.

Psalm 22:1

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

Psalm 22:6

6 But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
7 All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

8 “He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”

Jesus gets up on the cross so we don't have to.

Isaiah 53:11

Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Matthew 27:50

50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

Access has opened up through the death of the Son.

Hebrews 10:19-23

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

A new way has opened up to us to know God and be in his presence through the physical sacrifice of Jesus, a sacrifice that sprinkles us clean and washes and it is the cross that gives us confidence.

Matthew 27:52-53

52 The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, 53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

Speak as if He hears you. Endure like He is with you. Live like you won't die.

Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- How have you understood the questions Jesus asks, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” What is Jesus feeling? How is Jesus' question one that we also ask?
- What is the significance of the curtain being torn in the temple? What could it mean that it tore from the top to the bottom?
- A discipleship question is, “Am I resting in the finished work of Christ?” How would you answer that question? What does it mean to rest in the finished work of Jesus?
- Is there something about the way Jesus died that prompts faith in us? The centurion watched how Jesus died and declared Jesus the “Son of God.” What might it mean that the best way to know Jesus is through the cross?

- What personal application can you make from this passage? How can your life group support you in this application this week?