

Title: The Glory of the Gory Cross

Passage: Mark 15:33-41

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And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

EXPOSITION

Introduction

- Jesus' crucifixion was part of God's plan of salvation.

Isaiah 53:10-11

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;

he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. 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.

Overview

I. Climax of Jesus' Suffering (v. 33-37)

II. Immediate Effects of Jesus' Atonement (v. 38-41)

I. CLIMAX OF JESUS' SUFFERING (v. 33-37)

Mark 15:33

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

And when the sixth hour had come,...until the ninth hour.

- Sixth hour = 12pm
- Ninth hour = 3pm
 - Only 3 hours. (Could not be a solar eclipse)

there was darkness over the whole land

- darkness = a supernatural event

Why Darkness?

1. Sign of Mourning

Amos 8:9-10

"And on that day," declares the Lord GOD, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation;

I will bring sackcloth on every waist and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day.

- while may also reference End Times, also referenced this day of Jesus' crucifixion.
- Darkness = reflected mourning for what was happening to Jesus.

2. The Judgment of God

Exodus 10:21

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness to be felt."

- one of the plagues over all of Egypt.
- Plague of darkness was the one right before last one involving Passover Lamb (sacrifice of lamb whose blood over the doorpost to for God's judgment to pass over them)

3. God's Holy Terrifying Presence (not His absence)

- Darkness symbolized God's judgment.
- Here, full weight of God's wrath poured out on Jesus. Jesus absorbed all the tortures of hell in this finite period of time.

Isaiah 53:3-6

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Mark 15:34

And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me
Why spoken?

1. Jesus experienced real forsakenness / abandonment
 - Separation from God the Father in loving communion that Jesus had previously known
 - Not a separation of His essence or deity.
 - Only place where Jesus did not use the term "Father"
2. Jesus' feeling the pain for paying for our sins.
 - Jesus feeling the actual anguish and pain
 - Jesus was not only fully divine but also fully human.
 - Not expressing theological conversation as Jesus knew exactly what would happen to Him.
 - Deep, heartfelt prayer of lament.
 - This is a picture of hell where the full reality of torment with the absence of God.

John 18:4

Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?"

3. Jesus fulfillment of Scriptures

Psalms 22:1, 6-7, 14-18 (agony, anguish, pain)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?...But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads...I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

Psalms 22:23-24 (deliverance)

You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.

Mark 15:37

And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last.

- God heard His prayer and granted Him relief through death.

II. IMMEDIATE EFFECTS OF JESUS' ATONEMENT (v. 38-41)

Mark 15:38

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

- Veil of the curtain was torn in two and we now have full access to God.

Temple curtain

- Context: The Tabernacle/Temple was built to symbolize God's presence where He commanded to be built with a special area where God's presence would symbolically be called "the Holy of Holies."
- The Holy of Holies could only be entered by one person (High Priest) once a year (Day of Atonement).
 - Why? Present sacrifices that atoned or covered for the people's sins.

Leviticus 10:1-2 (example of improper sacrifice)

Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.

- Thick curtain physically separated the Holy of Holies
 - symbolized clear separation between God and man.
- Analogy: Trying to see the President of the United States - need to have special occasion and privilege.

from top to bottom.

- Only done by God from top to bottom
- The barrier between God and man is now gone for good!

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- With curtain torn, who was the first one to pass through? A Roman centurion.

Mark 15:39

And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

- First time where someone recognized Jesus as the Son of God
 - Previously, Jesus was mocked and derided.
- Most unlikely person: Centurion
 - A Gentile
 - A Roman soldier
 - Was previously a hardened and brutal man
 - Who previously likely killed others.
- How - What changed his heart?
 - Heard Jesus tender words and saw how Jesus die - uniquely different
 - The beauty of Jesus' death pierced the centurion's heart.
- Why?
 - Shows the power and extent of God's mercy.
 - Shows how Jesus sincerely feels and knows our suffering.
- In Trial
 - Misperception: May be tempted to feel abandoned and forgotten.
 - Truth: God knows intimately your pain and suffering.
 - Analogy: the back of a Persian rug with unclear mix of knots
 - Truth: God is working in your life for a purpose even when we don't understand the reason or meaning.

Mark 15:40-41

There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

- Women remained present with Jesus even to when He died.
- God would honor their faith by granting them to be the first ones to see Jesus resurrected!

APPLICATION

The cross reveals the truth of humankind and the power of redemption.

- When feel down or don't deserve something, remember:
- The God of the universe sent His only Son to die for you.
- Don't compare yourself to others.
- Good news! You are soooooo loved by God, God sent His only Son to die for you!
- Cross = your unworthiness and worthiness

Romans 12:3

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

The cross reminds us of God's incredible love for us.

- When feel tempted to base one's identity and love in other places.
- Only true love comes from God.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- God's love includes you!

Romans 5:8

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The cross shows all is not what it seems.

- What looks like defeat was truly redemption.
- What looked like abandonment was the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation
- Your eternal happiness is more important than your earthly, temporary happiness.
- God is always in control.
- God will always turn all things for good in time and for His glory for eternity

Genesis 50:20

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

1 Corinthians 1:27-28

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are

The cross reveals God's love and power can win over those you never would have dreamed they would respond.

- When tempted think there is no hope for another, God can change any heart.
- The Roman centurion's change of heart shows any heart can be transformed.
- Always pray and be kind; pray for miracles, which God does all the time!

Matthew 19:25-26

When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."