

## The Curtain is torn in two (Mark 15:33-41) Café Church - 13-August-17

### Related passages:

Psalm 22

Amos 8:9

There are Bibles on the table in front of you

And a sermon outline

And some questions

Let me pray first...

### Context

[Powerpoint 1-Context]

They crucified Jesus at 9am - verse 25

It was dark from noon to 3pm - verse 33

Jesus suffered in His crucifixion for 6 hours

A terrible death

### Darkness (v33)

[Powerpoint 2-Darkness]

- a. Darkness prophesied: in Amos 8:9 - therefore fulfilled
  - °“In that day,” declares the Sovereign LORD, “I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight
- b. Sign of judgment on sin by God - darkness symbol sin - rather than the light of Jesus
- c. Darkness also symbol of mourning and grieving - God grieves sin - it breaks His heart
- d. Darkness like a veil covering over the shame of the cross. How could they crucify God's Son?

## **On the Cross (vv34-37)**

[Powerpoint 3-Cross]

V34-At 3pm - Jesus cried out

"*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")

Fulfilling prophesy from Psalm 22 - verse 1 - Psalm of the Cross

Jesus quoting Psalm 22 - is reminding people watching & listening of the whole Psalm. Psalm 22 starts in despair but ends in confidence (see Psalm 22 verse 31 - He has done it - like Jesus says - "It is finished" (John 19:30)

Then there's more mockery of Jesus

The people watching think he's calling Elijah in v35 (the most famous of OT prophets) and that in v36 Elijah's going to come and take him down from the cross They don't understand that Jesus could save Himself if he wanted but that's not part of God's plan. God's plan is Jesus to die for the sin of the world

Finally Jesus' suffering is over. He breathes his last breath in v37. And we know from John 19:30 - Jesus' last words were "It is finished"

His job - to save humankind - from the punishment of sin - His Job is done

He's paid for our sin - with his life. He's taken our punishment - and our place! If we care to believe!

## **Reactions to the Cross (vv38-41)**

### **The Curtain**

[Powerpoint 4-Curtain picture]

The temple curtain is torn in two!

The temple curtain was at least thirty cubits high (1 Kings 6:2)

Therefore about 45ft (nearly 14metres)

Impossible to tear by human hands!

### **The significance of the curtain tearing...**

[Powerpoint 5-Curtain]

- The temple in Jerusalem was centre of Jewish religious life

- Temple was where animal sacrifices carried out and worship according to Law of Moses
- Hebrews 9:1-9 - says a veil separated Holy Place from Holy of Holy of Holies - in the temple - the Holy of Holies was the earthly dwelling place of God - the rest of temple was where humans dwelt
- The curtain separated humans from God - this separation was required because of sin (Isaiah 59:1-2)
- Only high priest was permitted to go beyond this curtain once a year (Exodus 30:10 and Hebrews 9:7) to enter God's presence for ALL of Israel and make atonement for their sins (Leviticus 16)
- The size of curtain makes this event of tearing in two extraordinary

### [Powerpoint 6-Curtain]

- The tearing of the curtain
  - showed Jesus' death symbolized His sacrifice - His blood was sufficient for atonement [EXPLAIN] of sins
  - It signified now the way to the Holy of Holies - the way to God - was open for all people, for all time, both Jews and Gentiles
  - God does not have to live in a temple (Acts 17:24)
  - And in fact this temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in AD70
  - As long as the temple stood - it signified the old covenant - the old way that people got right with God - through sacrifice which the High Priest made
  - Now Jesus - introduces a new covenant - a new way to be right with God - through faith in Jesus Himself - the Great High Priest - Jesus says He Himself is the only way to the Father (John 14:6)
  - Jesus is a superior High Priest - with a superior once and for all - never to be repeated sacrifice
  - Hebrews 10:19-20 says: <sup>19</sup>Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,
  - The curtain in the temple was a constant reminder that sin means humanity is unfit to be in the presence of God. The fact that the sin

offering was offered annually and countless other sacrifices repeated daily showed graphically that sin could not truly be atoned for or erased by mere animal sacrifices. Jesus Christ, through His death, has removed the barriers between God and humankind, and now we may approach God with confidence and boldness (Hebrews 4:14-16).

## The Centurion

A Roman in charge of at least 100 soldiers

[Powerpoint7-Centurion]

He would have seen many crucifixion and many people suffering and dying  
But when the centurion saw how Jesus died - he was completely convinced that Jesus was/is the Son of God -

Now remember the centurion is a Roman - Gentile - who worships many Roman gods plus sees Emperor Caesar as a God - yet the centurion believes Jesus is the Son of God

## The Women

[Powerpoint8-Centurion]

Then there's the women

Mary Magdalene - who Jesus had healed of possessing 7 demons (Mark 16:9)

Mary wife of Clopas - mother of James the less and Joses (John 19:25)

Salome - wife of Zebedee and mother of James and John (Matt 27:56)

Other women included Jesus' mother, Mary (John 19:25)

And women who ministered to Jesus in Galilee and have followed Him to Jerusalem

We should follow their loyalty and commitment - especially when we realize that most of His twelve disciples deserted him at his hour of need!

## Responses

[Powerpoint 9a]

1. Say **thank you Jesus** - for saving us from the punishment for our sin - and giving us forgiveness and eternal life

[Powerpoint 9b]

2. Affirm that Jesus truly is the **Son of God** - as the centurion said

[Powerpoint 9c]

3. Understand that we have full access to God - because of Jesus - we can go directly to God - and there are no barriers between God and us - if we accept Jesus sacrifice to us

[Powerpoint 9d]

4. Follow the commitment and loyalty that the women showed - they weren't afraid or ashamed to follow Him and show their loyalty to Him. They loved Him because He first loved them.

### Conclusion

Let me finish with some advice from the writer of Hebrews:

[Powerpoint 10-Conclusion]

### Hebrews 12:1-3 New International Version (NIV)

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run **with perseverance** the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup>**fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>**Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.**

Q&A

Let's pray...