

## WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CROSS

Matthew 27:45-56

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Countless sermons and Sunday School lessons have been presented about the cross of Jesus but nobody can ever explain, reveal, show or understand all that took place there and what Jesus actually went through. Nobody! This sermon is but a review of those events surrounding the cross with a prayer that God will reveal to us something we never thought of before and remind us of things we have known but may have forgotten.

### 1. THE EARTH WAS COVERED IN DARKNESS

- From noon to three in the afternoon, a strange, unusual darkness prevailed.
- The one who created all things was hanging on the cross.
  - Taking on Himself the sins of all mankind
  - Taking on God's judgment and wrath against mankind's sin.
  - Then dying in the place for all mankind.
  - In doing all this, mankind could be free from the penalty of sin and judgment and could live forever.
  - On the cross was God's Son.
  - The darkness was the darkest day of human history and the evilness of sin and revealed God's anger at sin and His withdrawal from the presence of sin.

### 2. GOD WITHDREW HIS PRESENCE FROM HIS SON, JESUS

- *"...My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me...?"*
- Jesus sensed that God had left and was no longer with Him.
- Jesus knew what He had become - everything that God hated and that He was bearing the curse that sin brought on - the separation of God.
- Jesus knew that God had left Him and that He was now in the hands of the enemies of God.
- Jesus was experiencing all that was contrary to His nature
- It is impossible for any of us to begin to comprehend what Jesus was feeling for He had never felt sin, He had never felt the absence of His Father, God, He had never been left by the Holy Spirit.
  - There hung Jesus, all alone. His heavenly Father had left Him, the Holy Spirit had left Him, His followers had left him except for one or two. ALONE, ALL ALONE!
- We can never feel what Jesus felt!

### 3. JESUS GAVE A GREAT SHOUT

- *"...it is finished!!!..."*
- Jesus had completed what He came to do, his work, mission and task was now over.
- His cry was not that of defeat but that of victory.
- Jesus was not killed! Jesus deliberately, willingly "ended" His earthly life, He died.
- Jesus yielded up His "spirit" to death.
- Jesus came for a specific purpose and did everything He came to do victoriously and when all was done and God, the Father was satisfied, Jesus gave up His earthly, physical life.

- Some may have forgotten but the time Jesus died (3:00 in the afternoon) was the very hour when the priests began to make the evening offering of the Passover Lamb.
- Think about it! While the priests were making ready the sacrificing of the SYMBOLIC lamb for the people, the TRUE LAMB of God was actually being sacrificed for the sins of the entire human race. But outside the city walls - not inside.

#### **4. THE TEMPLE VEIL WAS TORN FROM TOP TO BOTTOM**

- The veil was several inches thick, some 60 feet high, of the finest materials and was there to shield, to hide the Ark of the covenant which was in the Holy of Holies, which symbolized the presence of God, Himself.
- The High Priest could enter there only one day a year, the Day of Atonement.
- Upon the death of Jesus, the veil was no longer needed for people could now enter the presence of God anytime, anywhere and pray at any place.

#### **5. THERE WAS AN EARTHQUAKE**

- It could be said that that which was created was shuddering at the physical death of its creator.
- It could be said that the earth was shaking in response to Satan's ultimate defeat.
- It could be said that the earth was shaking in anticipation to the coming day of the Lord when all things would be redone and made perfect again.
- The earthquake opened many tombs/graves of God's saints.

#### **6. SOME NON BELIEVERS BECAME BELIEVERS**

- Of all people to become a believer in Jesus, there was one who had helped nail Jesus onto the cross, a Centurion.
- The darkness and the earthquake got the attention of many around the cross and they were filled with fear and awe.
- *"...Truly this was the Son of God..."*
- Many then believed who had only heard rumors about Jesus, but now they saw, heard and felt for themselves and they became believers in Jesus.
- The Cross was already drawing people to Jesus.

#### **7. THE MOST COURAGEOUS OF JESUS' FOLLOWERS WERE WOMEN**

- It was not bold, big mouthed Peter who was there at the cross supporting his teacher, his Lord, it was not any of those Jesus had healed who were there in support.
- Only one disciple was there, John.
- All the others who were there in support of Jesus were WOMEN!
  - Some stood away from the cross, some stood at the foot, but they were there!
  - They weren't afraid of the soldiers nor the religious officials nor anybody else.
  - They visibly showed their devotion and love for the Lord Jesus.

**CONCLUSION:** So, what do you think about what took place at the cross now?