



‘Now!’ Sermon Series

Sermon #48

‘The Most Important Events of all Humanity!’

Mark 15:33-41

Sunday, Sunrise Service at 7 AM, April 20th, 2025

Initial Intro:

- We are honored and so thankful that you’ve decided to spend the early hours of your Easter Sunday here with us at First Baptist.
 - This year we are doing our Easter Sunrise service a little bit different than usual, (tag team preaching and having folks share in reading the resurrection story), but today we are celebrating the day in History that was the ***GREATEST*** day for all humanity.
 - ***The day that Jesus walked out of the grave and defeated death for all mankind, if they will accept His free gift.***
 - But before we can truly understand the Reality of the Resurrection (that we will discuss in just a few hours), but must

look at and understand the crucifixion that Jesus endured.

‘The Most Important Events of all Humanity!’

Mark 15:33-41

Sermon in a Sentence:

In this text we find the Darkness Abounds, Jesus dying alone, and the Distance has expired! We now have full access to God!

Intro:

- Pastor Steve just wonderfully explained the crucifixion that Jesus went through on the cross.
 - ***For just a few brief moments this morning in Mark 15:33-41, I want to share with you the death of Jesus and what occurred when Jesus died on the Cross, giving up His life for us.***
 - ***Last year you may remember we did a series on the seven sayings of Jesus from the cross.***
 - This morning in the text we have before us in mark 15:33-41, we’ve got one puzzling and interesting statement that I certainly want to bring our attention to.
 - ***In Mark 15:34, Jesus says this, ‘Eloi, Eloi, Lema Sabachthani’, which means ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’.***
 - For centuries, this phrase has shocked and puzzled the entire world.

- This morning I want to read this passage and then uncover several truths as this is the most important event in the history of all humanity.

Question to Ask:

How are the events of this text significant to the overall crucifixion of Jesus?

Truth #1: *Darkness Abounds. (v. 33)*

- ‘And when the sixth hour[f] had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.’
 - *The sixth hour here would have meant that darkness had covered the land from 12 PM to 3 PM.*
 - All three of the synoptic Gospel writers record this information.
 - *Darkness had overcome the land and there are usually two schools of thought when it comes to why darkness had covered the earth...*
 - *#1: A sign of the Triumphant of evil.*
 - *Darkness is usually a sign of evil, and here, could be an indication that at least for now, it looks like evil has won.*
 - For now, satan and the demons are happy thinking that they have won as Jesus will soon die on the cross.

- But they don’t know what we know, and what’s coming...

■ #2: *A sign of the coming judgement.*

- This is probably more likely what the darkness abounding over the land that day meant.
- While there are many atheists/liberal scholars who will argue that this was a solar eclipse, that could not have occurred.
- *Because solar eclipses cannot happen when the moon is full, and the passover always occurred with a full moon.*
- This was a miracle of God, and I believe, a pronouncement of judgement and fulfilling of the prophecy of *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.' Amos
8:9-10

- *Darkness abounds because the perfect Son of God was being put to death. The entire weight of the world was on Him. It seems as if darkness had won...*

Truth #2: **Dying Alone.** (v. 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?"
- As I mentioned a moment ago, some of the most perplexing words in all of the Bible are spoken here by Jesus Christ Himself while He was on the cross.
 - *While Jesus is experiencing physical pain, He is simultaneously experiencing spiritual anguish and separation from the Father.*
 - David Platt described it as *'Jesus' cry on the cross was also a cry of spiritual anguish. Jesus experienced the wrath of God, and not just for a moment, but for hours. Shrouded by darkness and seared with pain, He experienced the cup of God's wrath.'*

- For a moment in time, Jesus was forsaken from the Father.
- This shows that in this moment, Jesus did die alone.

- *All throughout His ministry on earth, Jesus had been in communication with the Father through prayer.*

- But, this phrase that Jesus utters on the Cross reveals that in order for you and I to have salvation, God had to forsake His Son.
- I believe there are two important things that we must point out concerning the spiritual anguish that Jesus was experiencing on the Cross.
- **The Curse of the Cross.**
 - In the Apostle Paul's letters to the Galatians, he wrote these powerful words *'Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree" (Galatians 3:13)*
 - This 'curse' that the apostle Paul mentions is a result of disobedience. Sin. Our own personal disobedience against God.

- *It is the curse that each of us are born with.*
 - Remember Romans 3:23, 'for all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God.'
- *But the meaning and magnitude of Galatians 3:13, is the fact that the curse has been lifted by the work of Christ on the Cross.*
 - He literally took all the weight that our sin causes, and bore it Himself.
- This is why God had to forsake Him, because God cannot be around sin.
 - *So, talk about spiritual anguish, that for a brief time, Jesus truly was all alone.*
- *W.W. said 'He had been forsaken by the Father. That darkness was a symbol of the judgment that He endured when He was 'made a curse' for us.'*
 - A Holy God is not able to look with favor on His Son who had become sin.
 - He became sin, so that we may be able to live with Him forever in Heaven.
- *Cut off from God, briefly.*

- The apostle Paul also shows what it meant for Jesus to briefly be cut off from God when he (Paul), wrote this to the Church at Corinth in 2nd 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.*'
 - *The perfect, Holy one, became sin so that you and I might have salvation in Him.*
 - Oh, how deep the love of the Father is for us.
 - *That on the cross, Christ became our substitute, the one who did nothing wrong. The one who never sinned, became sin.*
- '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.' 1st Peter 2:24
 - *I don't think it's humanly possible to 100% fully understand what Jesus meant when He said 'My God, my God why have you forsaken me.'*
 - *Because you and I have not ever experienced that kind of spiritual anguish that Jesus did.*
- The doctrinal term that is used to describe this, is the substitutionary atonement, the fact that

Christ has provided the atoning sacrifice as 'our' substitute for the sins of all who believe.

- ***This verse is impossible to understand because we can't fully wrap our minds around the Love of God and what the Love of God really and truly means.***
- I can't help but think of the hymn 'How deep the Father's love for us'
 - ***How deep the Father's love for us, How vast beyond all measure, That He should give His only Son To make a wretch His treasure. How great the pain of searing loss -The Father turns His face away, As wounds which mar the Chosen One Bring many sons to glory.***
- But the words of Jesus that we find here in verse 34 are so important, yet not something we can truly 100% grasp.
 - ***But I do believe we can and should trust the Lord and be thankful that our Lord experienced the highest amount of loneliness ever comprehended for a moment in time.***
- Darkness abounds, Jesus died alone and...

Truth #3: *Distance Expires.* (vv. 35-41)

- 'And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." 36 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." 37 And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. 38 And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. 39 And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he[h] breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son[i] of God!" 40 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. 41 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.' Mark 15:35-41

- ***It is understandable that the onlookers (Jews, not Romans because they wouldn't have known anything about Elijah) perceived that maybe Jesus was calling for Elijah due to the belief that Elijah was going to return based on Malachi 3:1 and Malachi 4:5.***
 - They thought that our Lord was crying for Elijah to save Himself, when in reality, Christ could have done this Himself.
 - ***But we must remember, He stayed on the Cross for you and for me.***
- In verse 36, the soldiers give cruel comfort to Jesus.
 - ***They offered up sour wine to Him with the same reed that they beat Him with just earlier.***

- Without even realizing it, these soldiers in giving cruel comfort with the sour wine on the sponge were fulfilling Scripture.
 - ‘They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.’ Psalms 69:21
- In verse 37, Mark tells us that Jesus let out a loud cry, undoubtedly this is the same cry that John records in John 19:30...***Epecially since the wine is mentioned as well.***
 - ‘When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.’ John 19:30
 - ***This phrase is EXTREMELY significant to the very reason you and I are in this room as the saved people of God this morning.***
 - ***The phrase that Jesus uttered, ‘It is finished’ showed this:***
 - ***Atonement had been made.***
 - ***The work of salvation was done.***
- ***In Mark 15:38, another miracle occurs...***
 - ‘And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.’
 - Distance between God and humanity was no longer. ***Distance between God and people expired, as the Old Covenant was no longer applicable.***
 - ***Now, people could go directly to God the Father because of what Jesus did by dying on***

the cross. The distance that was once between us and God, is no longer!

- ***Carefully look at the wording in verse 38, ‘from top to bottom’, this shows that this event was a miracle of God.***
- A curtain could rip from the bottom up if someone started the cut, but here it was from the top to the bottom, and we are talking about a very thick curtain here.
 - ***Most scholars agree it was at least 4 inches thick.***
- ***There are several very important significant aspects of the separation from the Holy Place and from the Holy of holies (which is what this curtain separated).***
 - #1: The tearing of the curtain from top to bottom pointed to complete, perfect and altogether sufficient sacrifice for sins that Jesus offered Himself up on the Cross. In other words, He was the perfect sacrifice for ALL sins.
 - ***The sin that had created a barrier between us and God had been atoned for.***
 - #2: It points to the end of the Mosaic Covenant and its laws. They were fulfilled in Christ!
 - #3: God is now freely and fully accessible to all people who would come to Him by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ! Hallelujah!
- In verse 39, the Centurion joins the High Priest and Pilate in making a Christological confession (the same

people who were responsible for Jesus' death also ignorantly and unintentionally made Christological statements).

- *It can rightfully be assumed that this centurion had experienced the death of many crucified criminals. But He sees the purity and power of Jesus and realizes that this man's identity was real.*

- Something in this crucifixion was different than all the others. Because Jesus is different from everyone else, He is the Son of God.

- ***The centurion made this confession, have you?***

- 'because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.' Romans 10:9

- In verses 40 & 41 Mark mentions three women that witnessing the crucifixion of Christ from a distance...

- *The presence of these ladies establishes the fact that there were witness to His death and His burial.*

- Unlike the male disciples, their devotion wasn't marked by absence, but by their presence.

- ***Oh, if you and I could be as devoted today as those ladies were that day...***

- This morning we've looked at Mark 15:33-41 in the most important events of all humanity...

- **Truth #1: *Darkness Abounds.* (v. 33)**
- **Truth #2: *Dying Alone.* (v. 34)**
- **Truth #3: *Distance Expires.* (vv. 35-41)**