

## Jesus Died for Our Sins

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain how the religious leaders, and many others, showed their contempt for Jesus. We also saw that we want to show that Jesus will forgive anyone, regardless of their past. In this topic, we will see that Jesus died for our sins.

We see that Jesus was forsaken by the Father during the time that our sins and the sins of the whole world were placed on Him. Matthew 27:45-48 says, “Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’ Some of those who stood there, when they heard *that*, said, ‘This Man is calling for Elijah!’ Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled *it* with sour wine and put *it* on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.” These verses remind us that God the Father can never look on sin with favor. As a result, during the time that Jesus was bearing our sins, the Father covered the whole land with darkness, even though it was the middle of the day.

We see that our sins were placed on Jesus from the sixth hour until the ninth hour. Finally, as this time was coming to a close, Jesus cried out with a loud voice. The very fact that Jesus could cry out with a loud voice, at this time, shows that Jesus was still strong even during the time that He was forsaken by the Father. This is also a reminder that no one took the life of Jesus from Him; instead, He willingly gave up His life to pay for our sins. He came to do the will of the Father. Hebrews 10:5-7 says, “Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: ‘Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.’ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of Me—to do Your will, O God.’” Jesus fulfilled the will of the Father, even though it meant broken fellowship and separation from the Father.

That broken fellowship is why Jesus cried, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” We see that Jesus quoted this statement from Psalm 22:1, which says, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? *Why are You* so far from helping Me, *and from* the words of My groaning?” We see that Christ was forsaken so that we could be forgiven. He was forsaken so that we can enjoy fellowship with the Father. Isaiah 53:10-11 says, “Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put *Him* to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see *His* seed, He shall prolong *His* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, *and* be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.” The Father was satisfied with the payment Jesus made for our sins.

Some of those who were standing near the cross did not understand when Jesus cried out in the darkness. They thought Jesus was calling for Elijah. As a result, one of those present ran to get

Jesus some of the sour wine that He had earlier rejected. Matthew 27:34 says, “They gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted *it*, He would not drink.” In that verse, we saw that Jesus did not want to lessen the pain or dull His senses. Here, Matthew 27:49-53 says, “The rest said, ‘Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him.’ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.” John 19:30 says, “So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.” Jesus had finished paying the penalty for our sins. There was no longer any need to suffer more. He then willingly gave up His spirit.

We see that five things happened after Jesus voluntarily gave up His spirit. First, we see that the veil of the temple was torn in two, from the top to the bottom. The purpose of that veil is explained in Exodus 26:33, where we read, “‘And you shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then, you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy *place* and the Most Holy.’” Here, we see that the veil separated man from God. Until the blood of Jesus was shed and could take away sin, the high priest could only go into the Most Holy place one day each year to place blood on the mercy seat. In contrast, Hebrews 10:18-22 says, “Now where there is remission of these, *there is* no longer an offering for sin. Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” These verses show us that Jesus became our sacrifice once for all, as Hebrews 10:10-14 also says.

Second, we see that the earth quaked. This was the first of two earthquakes. The second is recorded in Matthew 28:2, where we read, “And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.” The first earthquake announced the death of Jesus. The great earthquake announced the resurrection of Jesus. Third, we see that the rocks were split. Fourth, we see that the graves were opened. The third and fourth things were the result of the first earthquake. However, the graves being opened prepared the way for the final thing that happened after the great earthquake.

Fifth, after the resurrection, we see an event happened that showed the power of the resurrection to many people in Jerusalem. Matthew 27:52b-53 says, “And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.” Notice that the word “many” is used twice in these verses. Many bodies of saints were raised after the resurrection. Then, these saints appeared to many people living in Jerusalem. The Lord may have used this appearance to many to prepare people for the great response on the Day of Pentecost. Acts 2:41 says, “Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.” The three thousand may have included many who saw these resurrected saints after the resurrection of Christ. Those raised experienced an early rapture, which all Christians will experience when Christ comes to

take us to heaven. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

The earthquake and the other things that happened that day also had a great impact on the centurion and the other soldiers who were at the cross. Matthew 27:54-56 says, “So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, ‘Truly this was the Son of God!’ And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.” We see that when the centurion and the other soldiers who were guarding Jesus felt the earthquake and saw the other things that were happening, they were filled with great fear.

As Roman soldiers, they had seen many things happen. However, this was different from anything that had happened in their past. They had never seen a person on a cross ask the Father to forgive those who had so mistreated Him. The darkness in the middle of the day for three hours was also something they had never experienced. They had seen the darkness and heard Jesus give that cry of victory, “It is finished.” They had also seen Him commit His spirit to the Father and then bow His head and die. This was followed by the earthquake that was so powerful that the rocks were split. The Roman soldiers chose to respond in a totally different way than the religious leaders. They responded by recognizing that Jesus truly was the Son of God. This is an example of the fact that the Father can work through any circumstance to draw people to Christ.

We also see the response of many others who truly followed Jesus. We see that there were many women, from Galilee, who had ministered to Jesus when He was in Galilee. The ministry of many of these women is recorded in Luke 8:1-3, where we read, “Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve *were* with Him, and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.” Here, we see that many women, from Galilee, gave their money to Jesus and the twelve to provide what they needed as they traveled throughout Galilee bringing the good news about the kingdom of God. These women all watched Jesus from a distance.

We see that the women who provided finances for Jesus and the disciples to share the good news came from many backgrounds. Mary Magdalene had been possessed by seven demons and Jesus had cast the demons out of her. Joanna was the wife of the man who handled the financial affairs of Herod. Some of these women were the mothers of disciples of Jesus. We know nothing about most of the women who provided from what they had to help Jesus and His disciples. We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain the very important ministry that these women had as they served Jesus by providing money for Jesus and the disciples. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn about the many people who helped Jesus in His ministry.