

SERMON-BASED STUDY: THE CURTAIN AND THE STONE

Matthew 27:45-46, 50-51, ESV – ⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. ⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

Matthew 28:1-2, ESV – Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This week we were reminded that Jesus died to let us back in. What is He letting us back into? Why can’t we enter on our own?

2 We were also reminded that Jesus leads us back out. Why do we need to be led back out? Once we are out, what are we supposed to do with ourselves?

3 Jesus is the one who allows us to have peace with God. As a result, we are now “sent ones” who are to “rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” What does it mean to be “sent ones”? How do we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God?”

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Hebrews 10:19-25, ESV** – ¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

4 The author of Hebrews exhorts believers to draw near to God. What does it mean to draw near to God? What are some specific, practical ways you can do this?

5 Believers are also encouraged to hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering. How is our confession of hope both personal devotion and public witness? What happens if one is lacking?

6 Lastly, believers are exhorted to stir up one another to love and good works. Why is community important for this exhortation? Why does the author specify love AND good works?

B ***Ephesians 2:1-10, ESV**— And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

7 Looking at Ephesians 2:1-5, how are we considered dead? How are we made alive?

8 What is the significance of being raised and seated with Christ? What is God's purpose in doing so?

9 According to the passage above, what is the relationship between faith and works?

TAKING IT HOME

Often, we can look at passages like these and focus solely on the fact that God has taken us from death to life through the redemptive work of Jesus on the cross. While this is true, God has a purpose for us that goes beyond salvation alone. Given the statement that God has already prepared good works for you to do in advance, how does this affect your view towards your particular ministry? How might you discover what these good works are? Share with your group or accountability partner what God has been showing you. Pray for one another as you seek to do the good works, He has planned for you.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

John 19:19-21
Romans 5:1-2
Hebrews 9:26