

Easter Series: Jesus's Last Words: His Finished Work (Part 3)

Luke 23:33-49



Luke 23:33-49 And when they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. 34 But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among

themselves. 35 And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were scoffing at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One." 36 And the soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine, 37 and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!" 38 Now there was also an inscription above Him, "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS." 39 And one of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" 40 But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for what we have done; but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" 43 And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise." 44 And it was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, 45 because the sun was obscured. And the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two. 46 And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last. 47 Now when the centurion saw what had happened, he began praising God, saying, "Certainly this man was righteous." 48 And all the crowds who came together for this spectacle, when they observed what had happened, were returning, beating

their chests. 49 And all His acquaintances and the women who accompanied Him from Galilee were standing at a distance, watching these things.

1) In the Darkness of the Land Jesus Removes Our Sins. The land fell into darkness for three hours while Jesus hung on the cross. It is at this moment that God the Father placed the sin of mankind upon Jesus and poured out the full measure of His wrath on Christ. The one who knew no sin became sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God. The removal of sin from the sinner is completely a work of Jesus. For anyone to stand in the presents of God their sin must be completely removed to make them pure and it is in the darkness of the land that Jesus removed our sin.

2) In the Destruction of the Veil Jesus Pays Our Sin Debt. God tore the veil of the temple in two at the final moment of Jesus's life on the cross. God the Father destroyed the only symbol in creation that showed the separation between God and man because of sin. The Holy of Holies is where the priests would offer sacrifices for sin before God and on behalf of the people. The payment of our sin debt before God is completely a work of Jesus. With the veil torn, God is declaring to the world that there will be no more sacrifices required because Jesus has forever paid our sin debt. With the veil torn, God is declaring to the world that there will be no more separation between Himself and His creature because the blood of Jesus gives us confidence to enter into His presence.

3) In the Death of the Savior Jesus Brings Our Confession. When His work is done, Jesus commits His Spirit into the Father's hands and draws His last breath. After all the people present witnessed the darkness, the destruction, and the death they were moved to respond to what just happened. There was worship, sorrow, and confusion among the people. It is the centurion who brings forth the right response to these things with the right confession that "truly this was a righteous man", "truly this man was the Son of God." There is no other response necessary for anyone today who hears about the death of Jesus other than to confess Him as Lord. Christ's work of sacrificing for our sin does not fully end until we believe it, receive it, and respond to Jesus by faith with our good confession.