

Good Friday 2019

The Silent 3 Hours of Darkness

Matthew 27:45-54

"From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!""

I. The Central Verse In The Story of the Cross

- A.** Recorded by all three Synoptic Gospels
- B.** Witnesses attitude changed after the darkness
 - Vinegar for pain
 - Elijah
 - Centurion's words
 - Didn't break his legs
 - The women still standing by
- C.** Explanations – not very persuading
 - Eclipse – full moon
 - Nature sympathizes for Jesus' suffering
 - Act of God – cry of Jesus

II. The Meaning of Darkness

- A.** The words of Jesus
 - Luke 22:53
"When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"

- John 9:4-5
"We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.""

1. Where only God could work

- B.** The darkness is where evil, Satan works
 - Paul – "the ruler of darkness"
- C.** John 1:4-5
"in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."
- D.** Satan's one goal was to extinguish that light
- E.** Matthew 4:16,
"the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.""

Matthew 6:23,

"but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!"

Matthew 8:12

"while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

- Darkness and death

III. The Passing Darkness

- A.** Jesus' words after the darkness
 - "My God, my God, what did you forsake me?"
 - A backward thought
 - "I thirst" – his human need right now
 - "It is finished" – aware of his completed task
 - "Father into your hands I commend my Spirit" a forward confidence

B. Then He gave up His Spirit

- Colossians 2:13-15

“And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.”

- Having triumphed over evil

IV. What Happened In The Darkness?

A. No one really knows completely

B. It’s just amazing and divine

C. Jesus went through the darkness of evil, sin and suffering so we won’t

D. He could have saved himself

- 10,000 angels
- Power

E. But he didn’t – He saved me and you

F. Because of love

G. The price had to be paid so I can be clean and freed from guilt, shame, and fully forgiven

H. From the darkness comes the treasures of pardon, peace, power and purity