

Miracles of Calvary

Mt 27:45-54, Mk 15:33-38, Lk 23:44-46, Jn 19:28,30

There are many remarkable miracles that took place when Jesus was completing God's plan for our salvation, but because of the magnificence of this event, most people are unfamiliar with what happened. As we look at the miracles of Calvary, it is my hope that it will help us gain a greater appreciation for the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

I. The Darkness:

Matt 27:45 says, "From noon until 3 in the afternoon darkness came over the whole land."

Picture the people's reactions, "It must be a solar eclipse," someone said with an uncertain voice. "No, it can't be," answered another. "There can't be an eclipse when the moon is full. "Maybe a storm is coming," called out another, but there is not a single cloud in the sky.

Darkness at mid-day, darkness at high noon! How can it be? Spectators had gathered to watch Jesus suffer, but no human eyes could gaze on the Lord's last hours. How can I explain it? What is the meaning of it? Did it cover the whole earth?

I don't know, but what I can tell you is that "He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor 5:21).

II. The Earthquake. (Matt 27:51)

Earthquakes occur when there is a buildup of pressure beneath the earth. It happens when rocks slide past one another and God may have used this mechanism. But the timing of the quake indicates that more was involved.

God caused it to happen and those who felt it were terrified. When the O.T. Law was given on Mount Sinai we read, "the whole mountain quaked violently" (Ex 19:18).

Now as Jesus fulfills that law, does away with that law, the earth trembles again, demonstrating God's divine power to affect nature, but there's more to it than that.

It confirmed God's power to touch the human heart. The centurion, who was standing in front saw the way he breathed his last began praising God saying, "Certainly this was a righteous man and declared, Truly this was God's son" (Mk 15, Lk 23).

Then the soldiers who also saw the earthquake and the things that were happening became very Frightened also declared, "Truly this was the son of God" (Mt 27:54).

The miracle touched the crowd. Luke 23:48 says, "When they observed what had happened, they began to return to their homes, beating their chests.

The cross of Jesus will never leave you the same. It will change the way you think, and it will change the way that you live.

III. The Veil was torn: Matt 27:51

Jesus died at 3 P.M. During that time, the priests at the temple were getting ready for the evening sacrifice, when the veil was torn from top to bottom.

What does the tearing of the veil mean for us? It shows that the Old Law has come to an end and for the new law to begin.

Heb 9:16-17 says, "Where a will exists, the death of the one who made it must be established. For a will is valid only when people die, since it is never in force while the one who made it is living."

Perhaps the most striking lesson is that the veil represents the flesh of Jesus. Heb 10:19-20 says, "We have confidence to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh."

Think of the veil not only as a barrier but also as an entrance to the Holy of Holies. Jesus is the entrance. He is the only way we can enter the presence of God. Just as the veil was torn, the body of Jesus was torn, which now makes it possible for us to be priests.

4. The Dead Raised (Mt 27:51 and 53)

The tombs were probably opened late on Friday when the earth shook, but the saints weren't raised until Sunday morning, maybe during the same time Jesus was raised.

We may wonder why the people didn't do something about all these dead bodies that were exposed for 3 days? I think I have a couple answers to that question. Touching a dead body would cause a Jew to be ceremonially unclean and prevent them from enjoying the Sabbath day meal. Also, the Jews were not allowed to work on the Sabbath. Therefore, it seems likely all these dead bodies laid exposed for everyone to see from Friday through Sunday.

When were they raised? After the resurrection of Jesus. Because of the fact they were raised after Jesus suggest, we are to connect His resurrection with theirs. We conclude that the resurrection of Jesus made their resurrection possible, just as He makes ours possible.

Jesus said in John 6:40, "For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Close: As we look at the cross, can we remain untouched?

We should never get to the point where we are untouched by the cross of Jesus!