

# THE MIRACLES OF EASTER

## MATTHEW 27:45-56

Text:

Introduction:

Today I want to share with you concerning the miracles around Calvary.

### 1. THE MIRACLE OF THE SUN

#### **Matthew 27:45**

<sup>45</sup> Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

It was dark from noon until 3 pm, normally the bright part of the day.

God said that's enough abuse, cruelty, and mockery and refused to allow the sun reveal His Son any longer.

#### **Psalms 22:1-31**

<sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?* <sup>2</sup> O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. <sup>3</sup> But thou *art holy, O thou* that inhabitest the praises of Israel. <sup>4</sup> Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. <sup>5</sup> They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. <sup>6</sup> But I *am* a

worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. <sup>7</sup> All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*, <sup>8</sup> He trusted on the LORD *that* he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him. <sup>9</sup> But thou *art* he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope *when I was* upon my mother's breasts. <sup>10</sup> I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou *art* my God from my mother's belly. <sup>11</sup> Be not far from me; for trouble *is* near; for *there is* none to help. <sup>12</sup> Many bulls have compassed me: strong *bulls* of Bashan have beset me round. <sup>13</sup> They gaped upon me *with* their mouths, *as* a ravening and a roaring lion. <sup>14</sup> I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. <sup>15</sup> My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. <sup>16</sup> For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. <sup>17</sup> I may tell all my bones: they look *and* stare upon me. <sup>18</sup> They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture. <sup>19</sup> But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me. <sup>20</sup> Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog. <sup>21</sup> Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns. <sup>22</sup> I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee. <sup>23</sup> Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel. <sup>24</sup> For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard. <sup>25</sup> My praise *shall be* of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him. <sup>26</sup> The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever. <sup>27</sup> All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. <sup>28</sup> For the kingdom *is* the LORD'S: and he *is* the governor among the nations. <sup>29</sup> All *they that be*

fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul. <sup>30</sup> A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation. <sup>31</sup> They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done *this*.

- A. Jesus was dying for the whole world.
- B. The whole world was dark.
- C. Not an Eclipse
- D. This was not a natural phenomena
- E. God intervened in a miraculous way.

Illustration:

The 3<sup>rd</sup> verse of the song "At The Cross"

Well might the sun in darkness hide,  
and shut His glories in  
When Christ the might Maker died  
For man the creatures sin

At the cross at the cross where I first saw the light,  
And the burden of my heart rolled away,  
It was there by faith I received my sight,  
And now I am happy all the day.

## 2. THE MIRACLE IN THE SANCTUARY

### **Matthew 27:51**

<sup>51</sup> And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

#### A. The Miracle in the Tearing of the Veil

1. Torn from the top, 60 feet up in the air.
2. This was during the earth quake.
3. Man would tear from the bottom.

#### B. The Miracle in the Teaching of the Veil

1. The veil separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place.
2. Only the High Priest could enter.
3. Then only on the Day of Atonement.
4. The Ark and the Mercy Seat were kept here
5. This was the place where the sacrifice for sin was placed on the mercy seat.

6. Jesus death on the Cross took the sacrifice into the heavens.

7. No Need for the Holy of Holies any more.

**Hebrews 7:27**

<sup>27</sup> Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

**Hebrews 9:12**

<sup>12</sup> Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

**Hebrews 10:20**

<sup>20</sup> By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

**1 Peter 3:18**

<sup>18</sup> For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Illustration:

God had to tear it and it was done to demonstrate the saving work of Christ.

### **3. THE MIRACLE OF THE STONES**

**Matthew 27:51**

<sup>51</sup> And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the

top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

**Matthew 27:54**

<sup>54</sup> Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

A. Their Message

**Luke 19:39-40**

<sup>39</sup> And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. <sup>40</sup> And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

The sun refused to shine and reveal what man had done to the Savior, but the rocks cried out this is the SON OF GOD.

## **4. THE MIRACLE OF THE SEPULCHERS**

**Matthew 27:52-53**

<sup>52</sup> And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, <sup>53</sup> And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

A. The Miracle of the Saints and their Showing

Illustration: A Living Saviour

A defendant was on trial for murder. There was strong evidence indicating guilt, but there was no corpse. In the defense's closing statement the lawyer, knowing

that his client would probably be convicted, resorted to a trick: "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I have a surprise for you all," the lawyer said as he looked at his watch. "Within one minute, the person presumed dead in this case will walk into this courtroom."

He looked toward the courtroom door. The jurors, somewhat stunned, all looked on eagerly. A minute passed. Nothing happened.

Finally the lawyer said, "Actually, I made up the previous statement. But you all looked on with anticipation. I therefore put it to you that there is reasonable doubt in this case as to whether anyone was killed and insist that you return a verdict of not guilty."

The jury, clearly confused, retired to deliberate. A few minutes later, the jury returned and pronounced a verdict of guilty.

"But how?" inquired the lawyer. "You must have had some doubt; I saw all of you stare at the door."

The jury foreman replied: "Oh, we did look, but your client didn't."

Application:

It was evident from the way he acted that the defendant didn't really believe the victim was still alive.

The question for us is this: As the world looks at our lives, is it evident to them that we believe in a living Saviour?

## **5. THE MIRACLE OF THE SOLDERS**

### **Matthew 27:54**

<sup>54</sup> Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

- A. Transformation – they feared greatly
- B. Testimony – Truly this was the Son of God

Illustration:

Some time ago some robbers stole a 14 foot bronze cross from Calvary Cemetery in Little Rock, Arkansas. This cross had stood at the entrance to this cemetery for more than 50 years. Thieves apparently stole it more for money than art, they cut it off at the base and hauled it away, most likely cutting it up into small pieces that they could then sell for 50 cents a pound. The cross weighed about 900 pounds thus netting them about \$450.



The cross's actual worth was \$10,000 or in today's dollar about \$50,000. The thieves obviously didn't know the real value of the cross as an object, instead they settled for a much cheaper price for it as scrap metal. This is still true for many today, they are willing to settle for the less important parts of Christianity like the feeling parts and fail to appreciate the deeper things of God that may not have an emotional base to them. They like the celebration, not the commitment.

## **6. THE MIRACLE OF SALVATION**

### **Luke 23:39-43**

<sup>39</sup> And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. <sup>40</sup> But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? <sup>41</sup> And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. <sup>42</sup> And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. <sup>43</sup> And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

A. It's Rejection (vs. 39)

B. It's Reception (vs. 42-43)

The only difference of the two men – one rejected Christ, and the other received Him.

Illustration:

Spurgeon once told of a man who had been sentenced

to death by a Spanish court. Because he was an American citizen and also of English birth the consuls of both countries decided to intervene for his life. They declared that the authorities of Spain had no right to take his life, but their protests unheeded. Finally, they deliberately wrapped the prisoner in their flags, the stars and stripes of our American flag and the union jack of England.

Defying the executioner, they issued this warning as the man was taken out to be shot: "Fire if you dare! But if you do, you will bring the powers of two great nations upon you!" There stood the condemned, but the rifleman would not shoot him! Protected by those flags and the governments they represented, the man was invulnerable! Their power protected him from death! So does the resurrection of our Lord if we believe and receive Him!