

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 5TH, 2026 // RESURRECTION

## GUILTY AS CHARGED (MATTHEW 27:32-44) HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?

Since humankind's first sin in the Garden, there has been a separation between sinful people and our Creator.

- In the Old Testament, God made a covenant with His people that would eventually be fulfilled by the Messiah who would deliver them from their oppressors.

## THE PROBLEM WITH SIN

The covenant God made didn't seem to keep people from sin. In fact, they entered into a cycle of rebellion that led to worshipping false gods.

- In His great mercy, God provided guidelines for people to follow as they struggled with sin (the law). But the problem didn't go away. In some ways, it intensified.

## SACRIFICE AND FORGIVENESS

God established a system of sacrifice as atonement for sin. There were ways to sacrifice for individual, family, and national sins.

- In faith, people followed the law and made sacrifices, but both were only shadows of what would come as God fulfilled His covenant with His people.

## WALKING TALL AND AWAY

Over time, the sacrificial system was misunderstood and used to create religious politics and classes within God's people.

- In pride, the religious leaders created a messiah in their minds who would lead them to war and victory over the world.
- They walked away from the truth of God's Word and created idols out of their system and the temple.

## JESUS WALKED IN

Jesus came and began to fulfill all prophecy about Himself. He was perfect in every way. He was not just without sin—He perfectly represented everything the Messiah would be, and He never denied His divinity.

- In three years, He taught the truth and disciplined others to understand who He really was.

## MORE IMPORTANT THAN TRUTH

The religious leaders, with their twisted ideas of Scripture, rejected Jesus as the Messiah. Their traditions and positions were at stake, and agreeing with God would jeopardize everything they held dear.

- When they couldn't catch Jesus in a lie or corner Him with their knowledge, they finally just accused Him of being who He said He was.

## ONLY GOD AND THE MESSIAH

- Only God could be "I Am" (John 8:58).
- Only God could forgive sin (Mark 2:5-7).
- Only God could be King (Mark 15:2).
- Jesus said He was the only way to the Father (John 14:6).
- Jesus said He existed before Abraham and even before creation (John 17:5).
- Only the Messiah could be THE Son of God (Luke 22: 70).

## CALLING THE TRUTH BLASPHEMY

When everything else failed, the religious leaders accused Jesus of blasphemy against God, the law, and the temple.

- **When we disagree with God and His plan, what are we willing to sacrifice to get our way and follow our plan?**

## INSULTS AND SARCASM

They put a sign over Jesus' head that identified Him as King of the Jews.

- They accused Him of wanting to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days.
- They called Him the Son of God and challenged Him to save Himself.
- **Giving Jesus names and titles means nothing if we refuse to follow Him.**

## ABANDONED AND ALONE (MATTHEW 27:45-49)

### DARKNESS OVER THE WHOLE LAND

Darkness was a response of God to the crucifixion of His Son.

- God was not pleased with the darkness of the world—the darkness of humankind's sin.
- Jesus had endured three hours of mocking from the arrogant crowd; now the crowd would endure three hours of darkness in fear.
- **God has always and will always respond to sin.**

### "JESUS CRIED OUT"

After three hours of darkness, Jesus responded to the sin He was bearing.

- As He quoted Psalm 22, He endured the wrath of God's judgment for sin.
- Jesus did not lose His divinity or His humanity. His humanity experienced condemnation for sin—something He never deserved.
- **God judged Jesus because His body bore our sin. He was abandoned so we wouldn't be.**

### "CALLING FOR ELIJAH"

The confused people responded, possibly because they believed that Elijah came in times of distress to deliver righteous sufferers.

- They offered a drink, hoping He would survive long enough for a rescue by Elijah.
- **The cross was not about quenching a thirst or the return of a prophet. It was about the One forsaken by God as a substitute for others.**

## TORN AND BROKEN (MATTHEW 27:50-54)

### "BREATHED HIS LAST"

Jesus let out a final cry of victory and breathed His last.

- At that moment, God tore the inner veil of the temple. The way to Him was no longer veiled. What stood between God and man was removed in the death of Christ.
- **For God, what took place at the cross answered the darkness the earth deserved. There is now a way to God, through Jesus.**

## WHY THE VEIL?

For centuries, the veil represented the separation between God's holiness and humankind's sinfulness.

- Only one priest, only once a year, could go behind the veil and enter the holiest place.
- Jesus became the way to enter into God's presence. ANYONE can now enter a relationship with Christ and enjoy the presence of God in their life.

## BEHIND THE VEIL

For centuries, the atonement for Israel was made behind the veil by the High Priest.

- In a temple where centuries of blood had flowed to seek forgiveness for sin, no blood would ever need to be shed again.
- **Jesus didn't replace sacrifices; He completed them. He was the perfect and final sacrifice, and the temple sacrifice was no longer needed** (Hebrews 10:1, 10).

## THE CROSS AND THE TEMPLE

At the moment Jesus died, rocks split, the sun returned, the earth shook, and the veil was torn.

- They were terrified because of what they had seen and because of what they had said.
- **People at the cross recognized Jesus as the Son of God, and many priests would soon become obedient to the faith** (Acts 6:7).

## PROVEN IN THREE DAYS

Soon after His death, many would see Jesus alive, as He prepared His faithful followers for His ascension into Heaven and the coming presence of the Holy Spirit.

- His resurrection proves every prophecy, every claim, and every promise is true.
- **How much evidence does it take for us to believe? What will we do once we do?**

## CARING

- People do care.
- **We care about so many things.**
- **What do we really care about? We care about the things we take care of. Possessions, positions, and perceptions are at the top of the list. Do we care about others? About what God has done? About eternity? How do we show it? God cares.**

## LOVING

- God loves us.
- **He created us because He loves us, and He gave us the ability to love Him.**
- **The problem is that we have lost His definition of love. Love came from Heaven, died on a cross, returned to us, then sent His Spirit to empower us with His love.**

## SHARING

- Jesus shared His life with us.
- **Will we share His life with others?**
- **We know what He did for us and what it cost Him. Will we respond to that kind of care and love with repentance? How will we respond with obedience? How will we serve together to grow in our relationship with Him and His family? We know Him. Will we trust Him with our love? He trusted us with His. Now, who will we tell?**