

Luke
See Jesus
“When Darkness Veils His Lovely Face...”
Luke 23:44-56

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / June 9, 2024

Luke 23:44-56 “It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!’ And having said this He breathed His last. ⁴⁷ Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, ‘Certainly this man was innocent!’ ⁴⁸ And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ And all His acquaintances and the women who had followed Him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things. ⁵⁰ Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, ⁵¹ who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. ⁵² This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³ Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid Him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. ⁵⁴ It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how His body was laid. ⁵⁶ Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

I. Don't let the physical pains of the cross distract you from the worst pain of all - suffering for our sin.

Luke 23:44-45 “It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed ...”

A. Nothing infuriates the Lord more than sin.

Exodus 22:24 “...and My wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless.”

Deuteronomy 11:17 “Then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and He will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain, and the land will yield no fruit, and you will perish quickly off the good land that the Lord is giving you.”

Isaiah 5:25 “Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against His people, and He stretched out His hand against them and struck them, and the mountains quaked; and their corpses were as refuse in the midst of the streets. For all this His anger has not turned away, and His hand is stretched out still.”

Jeremiah 42:15-17 “...If you set your faces to enter Egypt and go to live there, ¹⁶ then the sword that you fear shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine of which you are afraid shall follow close after you to Egypt, and there you shall die. ¹⁷ All the men who set their faces to go to Egypt to live there shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. They shall have no remnant or survivor from the disaster that I will bring upon them.”

Ezekiel 5:13 “Thus shall My anger spend itself, and I will vent My fury upon them and satisfy Myself. And they shall know that I am the Lord—that I have spoken in My jealousy—when I spend My fury upon them.

II. Don't let the physical pains of the cross distract you from the spiritual weight of His death.

Luke 23:45 “...And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.”

A. Sin creates a separation between us and God.

Isaiah 59:1-2 “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or His ear dull, that it cannot hear; ² **but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God**, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”

B. Even when God’s people worshiped Him, they couldn’t enter His presence.

Exodus 26:31 “And you shall make a veil of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. It shall be made with cherubim skillfully worked into it.”

III. Don’t let Jesus’ death make you think He was the victim when He was the victor!

Luke 23:46 “Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!’ And having said this He breathed His last.

John 10:14-15,17-18 “I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and **I lay down My life** for the sheep... ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves Me, because **I lay down My life that I may take it up again.** ¹⁸ **No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.** This charge I have received from My Father.”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. When you think of Christ’s death on the cross, do you typically focus on the physical suffering or the spiritual suffering of Christ?
2. Why was God justified in pouring out His wrath towards Christ?
3. As a result of Christ’s death, we can enter into God’s presence. How do you “draw near” to God? How do you enter into His presence?
4. Why is it important to remember that Christ’s life wasn’t taken from Him, but He laid it down on His own?
5. So, now what? How will these truths impact you tomorrow?