

Jesus Death Opened the Way to God

Matthew 27:1-66

Key Verse: 27:50-51a

by Moses Lenthang

“And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.”

1. Look at verses 1-10. What did the chief priests and elders of the people decide to do with Jesus? How did they carry out their plan? What did Judas realize and what did he do to overcome his remorse? What is the difference between remorse or regret and repentance? Why could Judas not take back what he had done?
2. Read verses 11-14. What was the charge brought against Jesus? How did Jesus respond to the charges? Read verses 15-19. Why (18,19) and how (15,19, 22,26) did Pilate try to avoid executing Jesus? Why did he fail? Read vs 20-26. Who was responsible for Jesus' death?
3. Read verses 27-31. What was the ironic truth in the soldiers' mockery? Read verses 32-44. What was Simon's role? What did the soldiers do? The other people? What can we learn from these verses and references about who Jesus is and what he did for us? (Compare Ps 22:16-18) (Isa 53:3,4,12; 1 Pe 2:24). How is scripture fulfilled? What truth is hidden in the taunts?
4. Read verses 45-49. What does it mean that the world became dark? What did Jesus cry out? What was Jesus' deepest agony and his confidence? (Ps 22:1-3; Isa 59:2; 53:6b; 12bc)
5. Read verses 50-54. What happened at the moment of Jesus' death? What does it mean that the curtain of the temple was torn? (Heb 10:19,20) That tombs broke open? What was the testimony of the centurion? What is the meaning to us and to the world of Jesus' death?
6. Read verses 55-61. Who witnessed these things? What do we know about the women? Who was Joseph and how was he changed? How did he contribute to gospel history? How and why did Pilate secure the tomb? (62-66) what does this mean to us?