

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Theme: *Christ the King*

Outline:

- Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)
- Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King's baptism.
- Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)
- Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)
- Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)
- Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.
- Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.
- Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.
- Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.
- Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.
- Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.
- Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.**
- Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

Matthew 26-28 intimately deals with the events surrounding the death and resurrection of Christ. I have shared this before but it bears repeating.

There are eighty-nine chapters in the four Gospels. Four of these chapters cover the first thirty years of the life of Jesus and eighty-five chapters the last three years of His life. Of those eighty-five chapters, twenty-seven deal with the last eight days of His life. So about one-third of the gospel records deal with the last few days and place the emphasis on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

– **J. Vernon McGee**

And that is where we are in our study. We have seen the events leading up to the cross, and the death of Christ on the cross, and now we see the effects of the cross.

We saw last time in Matthew 27:50 that Christ cried out with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit. This loud voice was the cry of triumph and the committal of His spirit to God the Father. It is recorded in John 19 in this way.

Slide # 2

John 19:30 (NKJV)

30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “**It is finished!**” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Note Jesus did not say, “I AM finished” but rather “*It is finished*”. Actually, “It is finished” is the translation of a single Greek word – the word “*tetelestai*”. This word simply meant “*It is accomplished*” or “*the debt is paid in full*”.

Jesus all by Himself paid our sin debt in full. To truly believe in Him as Savior is to believe “Jesus paid it all – all to Him I owe”. Jesus ALONE is Savior. All we can do is in faith say, “THANK YOU!”

Slide # 3

There is an inherent blasphemy in seeking to add to what Christ Jesus in his dying moments declared to be finished or to improve that in which the Lord Jehovah finds perfect satisfaction.

C.H.Spurgeon

At the moment of Christ’s death 3 amazing things immediately followed as seen in Matthew 27:51-52.

Matthew 27:51–56 (NKJV)

51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,

Jesus gave a loud cry of VICTORY and yielded up His spirit and then immediately the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

The significance of this is incredible!

The word for “**temple**” here is the Greek word “**naos**” which always refers to the innermost part of the temple known as the “***Holy of holies***” which was associated with God’s most holy presence.

No one was ever allowed to go into the “Holy of holies” except for the high priest and he could only go in there once a year on the Day of Atonement which in Hebrew is literally “Yom Kippur” (Lev. 16). And when he went in he could only go in with the blood of a sacrificial animal which he quickly applied to the ark of the covenant for the sins of the people and then got out (Heb. 9:7).

The Jews knew that God had plainly said in the OT that no man can see God and live (Ex. 33:20), so the very thought of going into the intimate presence of God was overwhelming – even for the high priest.

According to tradition the High Priest had a rope tied around his ankle or waist, just in case he was struck down by God, which they thought would be an indication God had rejected the offering and not forgiven the people; in that case then they would be able to pull the High Priest out from behind the veil.

So in the mind of every Jew the Holy of Holies was the most sacred place on earth. No one would dare try and go in there except for the high priest, and he only once a year, and then only with the proper blood offering, and then done quickly.

The veil in front of the Holy of Holies was 60 feet wide, 30 feet high and as thick as a man’s hand – meaning about 5 inches thick (cf. Ex. 26:31-35; 38:18; Heb. 9:3). This was incredibly heavy – perhaps requiring several hundred men to lift it. Historians say that a yoke of oxen could not have torn it apart.

But note it was torn from **top to bottom**. This indicates it was a God-thing! This was not a bottom up (man-oriented) thing, but rather a top-down thing. This was God’s doing and it was supernatural.

This put on display that it was on the basis of Christ’s death on the cross that ACCESS was now available into the intimate presence of God. This was a brand-new reality! This is a new covenant reality. This is what the book of Hebrews emphasizes.

Slide # 4

Hebrews 10:19–22 (NKJV)

19 Therefore, brethren, having **boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,**

20 by **a new and living way** which He consecrated for us, **through the veil, that is, His flesh,**

21 and having a High Priest over the house of God,

22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

As believers, we now have ACCESS into the intimate presence of God through prayer. We come right into the HOLIEST presence of God and it is all because of Christ's finished work on the cross.

Slide # 5**Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)**

16 Let us therefore **come boldly to the throne** of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

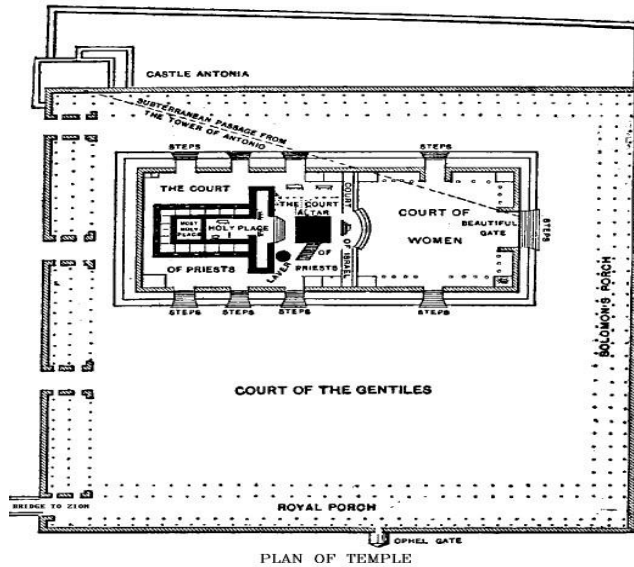
We as God's children can now come boldly – not arrogantly in and of ourselves, but boldly with great confidence because the BLOOD of Jesus has made way for us. The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin and makes us perfectly right with God so that we now can come with great confidence/boldness right into the throne room.

As believers we don't have to wonder if we will be accepted! We as God's children are now granted full ACCESS. We don't need any other mediators! Jesus is our mediator and through Him we have full access!

The other thing to note that was communicated through this action was that the old system under the Mosaic Law was now rendered obsolete. Under the old system access was very limited. Everything was partial and limited.

Only the high priest could go into the Holy of Holies and only once a year. Even the other priests could NEVER enter in. In the holy place outside the Holy of Holies only the priests could go and then only certain ones with specific duties at prescribed times. They couldn't all go there all the time. Then there was the court of the men where only the men of Israel could go – and not the women. And then there was the women's court where no Gentile could go. And then on the outer complex was the court of the Gentiles where anyone could go. But it was all very limiting and there were all kinds of barriers.

Slide # 6 – Temple Courts...



But now in Christ all barriers have been removed. Under the New Covenant we now have direct unhindered access.

One day I was in a friendly discussion with a Catholic man who happens to be a lawyer. I was introduced to him as a pastor and so we made small talk about church and then I asked him what he thought was the difference between his Catholicism and my faith. He said, “***The Catholic way is more direct***”. I said “No that is not true.” I said, “***You have all these intermediate steps, such as the sacraments, the priests, confession, purgatory, and so forth***”. I said, “***My way is the direct way -which is straight through Jesus. I have a direct line to heaven through Jesus.***” He didn’t know what to say – which is saying something for a lawyer.

Slide # 7

1 Timothy 2:5–6 (NKJV)

5 For there is one God and **one Mediator** between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

Slide # 8

- Note it most carefully that there is only **ONE Mediator** between God and men and that is Jesus Christ. The church is not THE Mediator! Angels are not THE Mediator! Saints are not THE Mediator! Mary is not THE Mediator! The Pope or priests are not THE Mediator! Sacraments are not the Mediator! Baptism is not the Mediator! The ONLY Mediator by which we can have access to God is Jesus! Any other gospel is a FALSE gospel. Any other knowledge is not knowledge of the TRUTH.

Jesus died – the veil was torn from top to bottom and that changed everything. We now have direct access to God through Jesus and His finished work on the cross!

The old limiting system of barriers has now been removed and made completely obsolete.

Slide # 9



This is a really huge and essential point. We always have those who come along and try to put us back under the law with all its restrictions and regulations (cf. Col 2). Why would anyone want to do that? Why would one want to go back to barriers and distance from God when you can have intimacy and closeness. It makes no sense and it is totally unbiblical!

Slide # 10

Hebrews 8:13 (NKJV)

13 In that He says, “**A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete.** Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

We today have a whole new way of relating to God – which is through Jesus Christ. We live under a whole NEW covenant which is based on the blood of Christ. And it is an everlasting covenant.

Slide # 11

Hebrews 13:20–21 (NKJV)

20 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, **through the blood of the everlasting covenant,**

21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Realize that this tearing of veil happened as soon as Jesus died which was about 3 PM in the afternoon. And realize this happened right on Passover (see Matt. 26:2) at the very time the Jews were killing their paschal lambs. Ironically Jesus is the ultimate Passover Lamb – the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world (Jn. 1:29).

This was Passover, one of the busiest Jewish holidays of the year. Josephus (a Jewish historian) said Jerusalem could swell to 2 million people. The temple would have been crowded. The priests would have had all hands-on deck at the temple.

It was in that context that this thick veil was torn from top to bottom. Something this heavy would undoubtedly have made a tremendous noise as it was split so that all in the surrounding area would probably have heard it. Can you imagine the hushed mayhem that must have ensued as the priests scurried about in the aftermath of this happening?

Perhaps it was largely covered up because there was also an outside curtain in front of the Holy Place which would have prevented the general populous of Jews from seeing in- but the priests would have known about it in short order. Perhaps this partially explains Acts 6:7.

Slide # 12

Acts 6:7 (NKJV)

7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and **a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.**

The priests all knew something incredible had happened in relation to the timing of Christ's death. Very possibly this was instrumental in MANY of them being obedient to the faith.

What happened with the veil after this we are not told.

Presumably, they sewed it back up again and went about their business of serving a now-dead religion as though nothing had happened. If so, it was not to be for long. Even as Matthew wrote, God was preparing to pull the entire temple down. – **John Phillips**

And simultaneously with the veil being rent in the temple was an earthquake which caused the rocks to split open.

When God wants to make a POINT He often uses an earthquake to show the awesomeness of it. He did this at Mount Sinai with the giving of the 10 commandments; He did it at Jericho as the children of Israel entered the Promised Land; He did it at the death of Christ as well as at His resurrection. He will do so in the future with the war of Gog and Magog (Ezek. 38-39); and He will do so in grandiose fashion in the events related to the Day of the Lord and the Second Coming.

Earthquakes have been used distinctively by God to highlight some of the most important events of the Bible. ...God does not do anything really big without emphasizing it with an earthquake!

– **Steven Austin** (with ICR)

In this world we talk about “**movers and shakers**” – well I want you to know that God is the ultimate mover and shaker and when He shakes things up we had better listen! He shook things up at Christ’s first coming – but it was really a mild shaking in GRACE – like saying you better listen to this. But He is going to shake the whole earth violently at the Second Coming in the day of the Lord.

Slide # 13

Isaiah 2:10–11 (NKJV)

10 Enter into the rock, and hide in the dust, From the terror of the LORD And the glory of His majesty.

11 The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, The haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, And the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Isaiah 2:19 (NKJV)

19 They shall go into the holes of the rocks, And into the caves of the earth, From the terror of the LORD And the glory of His majesty, **When He arises to shake the earth mightily.**

At His first coming it was “Sinners in the hands of a God of Grace” as “grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (Jn. 1:17); at His second coming it will be “Sinners in the hands of angry God” as God is going to shake the world to its foundations and bring all that is haughty and lofty DOWN!

The earthquake at the time of Christ’s death was just an attention-getter – saying in effect you better take note and listen to what I am saying through the death of My Son!

52 and the graves were opened;

In conjunction with the earthquake and the rocks being spit open – many graves or tombs were also split open.

In the Greek language there were no punctuation marks so there is some debate on the timing of the graves opening and the raising of the dead which followed.

It would appear that immediately when Christ died the veil was torn; the earth quaked, and the rocks were split resulting in various graves being opened.

However, it is probable that the saints being raised did not happen until after the resurrection of Christ as seen in verse 53.

52b and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

This is a unique statement in Scripture without parallel in any of the other gospels. We are not told much, leaving many unanswered questions.

These saints (holy ones) were obviously OT saints as the Church had not yet started. They had been in the grave and were raised to life apparently after Christ rose from the dead.

One of the biggest questions is whether these saints (holy people) were raised from dead in mortal bodies as in the case of Lazarus (meaning they had to die again), or whether they were resurrected with glorified bodies like that of the risen Lord. Again, we are not given much information so we don't really know specifics.

If they had glorified bodies that would mean they definitely were raised from the dead AFTER Christ was resurrected because the Scripture plainly tells us that Christ Himself is the **"firstfruits"** of those risen from the dead in a glorified body (1 Cor. 15:20; 23). Acts 26:23 says that Christ would suffer and ***"that He would be the first to rise from the dead"***. Col. 1:18 and Rev. 1:5 refer to Christ as "the first-born from the dead".

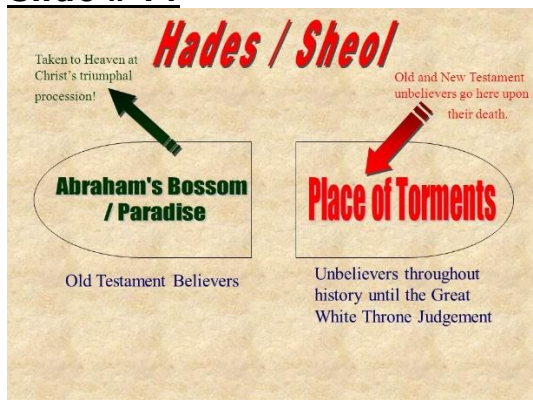
If they did have resurrected glorified bodies many assume then that they went back to heaven with Christ in short order. Some would see them as a sort of token "firstfruits" following in the trail of Christ (cf. Lev. 23:10-14).

A problem with this view is that these are OT saints and elsewhere we see the resurrection of the Church saints first and then the resurrection of the OT saints at the time of the Second Coming (1 Thess. 4:16-17; Dan. 12:1-2). However, if God wanted to resurrect a “token” firstfruits of OT saints with glorified bodies “out of order” (as it were) He could certainly do so.

I suspect that these OT saints were probably raised to mortal life and had to die again even as was the case with Lazarus and others that Christ raised from the dead, but again, we can’t say for certain (cf. 1 Kg. 17; 2 Kg. 4; 13; Mt. 9; Lk. 7:13-15; Lk. 8:52-56; Jn. 11:43-44).

It is clear they were OT saints, meaning their souls had been in the paradise section of Sheol – called Hades in the NT. Perhaps they were raised to indicate that in keeping with the rent veil that all the previous barriers in place under the Old Covenant had now been removed.

Slide # 14



The OT saints lived in anticipation of the coming Christ, but they never really knew the full and total forgiveness that was actualized at the cross. They lived in the “shadowland” where nothing was yet complete. They lived in an era of “barriers” where yes, they had relationship with God, and yet nothing was made perfect under the Law (Heb. 7:19). They never were able to get very close to God. They never had absolute confirmation. There were always more sacrifices to be made and things always remained incomplete.

Into that void stepped Jesus to become the sacrifice for the sins of the entire world including all those committed prior to the cross (cf. Jn. 1:29, Rom. 3:24-26).

Thus, Christ’s death became the redemption of all those transgressions under the first covenant – that is all those sins committed under the Mosaic Covenant.

Christ retroactively paid the final and complete price for all the sins of these OT saints and removed the previous barriers to where these OT saints now also have full access to God (cf. Heb. 9:15). Perhaps that is the point being made in conjunction with the veil being torn from top to bottom. All the barriers of the OT are now removed. In His death Christ now provided for the OT saints to also have unhindered access to God (cf. Eph. 4:8-10; Col. 2:15; 1 Pt. 3:19; 2 Pet. 2:4).

To add weight to this train of thought Hebrews 12:23 speaks of “***the spirits of just men made perfect***” who are now represented as being in heaven.

It is thought that the “***spirits of just men made perfect***” refers to the OT saints who prior to the time of Christ lived under the barriers of the Old Covenant but at the time of Christ’s death and resurrection were put into a better position of “made perfect” – into the completed position of having full access to God. At the time of Christ’s resurrection, we believe they were then transitioned from the paradise section of Hades to heaven where we now find them.

These who came out of the graves were evidently contemporaries with those they appeared to in the holy city (Jerusalem) because the appearance of a complete stranger would not mean much. “***Hello, you don’t know me, but I just came out of the tomb just east of town.***”

More likely the sense is that in appearing to many people, the people who saw them had previously known them, which would result in instant credibility in terms of being raised from the dead.

It is suggested also that in their appearing to many in Jerusalem that the resurrected state promises deeper fellowship – not only with God but also with human beings. You do wonder what those interactions looked like. I mean it’s not every day you have someone out of a tomb show up at your door. What would say? I would think it would have the potential for hysteria.

Have you seen where they prank people by having the person in the casket sit up? It shocks people out of their minds. This was a most interesting event, to say the least.

54 So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

The centurion was a Roman guard who had command over 100 men.

He and those with him had the role of supervising the crucifixions to ensure that the death penalty be carried out as ordered. Roman soldiers were known for their strong discipline and great courage. They had undoubtedly witnessed many gory crucifixion scenes. But this one was different!

They had a firsthand up close and personal experience at the foot of the cross. They witnessed everything that happened.

They probably knew the Jews demand of Pilate that Jesus be killed because “**He made Himself the Son of God**” as seen in John 19:7. They had heard the rabble crowd blaspheming and saying, “**If You are the Son of God come down from the cross**” (Mt. 27:40). They had heard the religious leaders sneering about how He said, “**I am the Son of God**” (Mt. 27:43). They had perhaps even themselves nailed the placard over Christ’s cross which said, “**THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS**” (Mt. 27:37).

They had witnessed the profound seven words of Christ from the cross and the demeanor in which He spoke them:

- Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.
- To day you shall be with me in paradise.
- Woman, behold, thy son! Behold, thy mother!
- My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?
- I thirst.
- It is finished.
- Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.

They had heard it all. And they had seen it all. They witnessed the darkness that settled over the whole land at midday noon until 3 PM. They witnessed the LOUD victory shout of Christ as He yielded up His spirit. And they observed that immediately the earth began to quake and the rocks all around were splitting open.

This not only got their attention – it caused them to fear greatly. These strong courageous soldiers were terrified. They could see this surrounding activity was of God and it terrified them.

And in that moment the centurion cried out, “**Truly this was the Son of God!**” Mark 15:39 is clear that it was the centurion who said this but apparently those soldiers who were with him also affirmed it (cf. Mt. 3:17; 4:3, 6; 8:29; 11:25-27; 14:33; 16:16; 17:5; 21:37-39; 22:42-45; 24:36).

Commentators grapple over whether or not this was a true saving faith confession on the part of the centurion or just an emotional response expressed through the lens of pagan mysticism.

In my view there is no reason to think this was not a true saving faith response. Not only did the remarkable phenomenon in nature get his attention – sort of like that of the Philippian jailer when the jail was shaken to its core by a great earthquake and he “***fell down trembling before Paul and Silas***” saying, “***Sirs, what must I do to be saved?***” (Acts 16:29-30). Earthquakes have a way of getting a person’s attention BIG time – especially in a context like this.

But not only was there all this remarkable natural phenomenon, there was also the testimony of WHO Jesus is coming from all sorts of unlikely sources. It was enough for the converted thief on the cross to come to faith, why not these Roman soldiers?

Note also that Luke further qualifies the nature of the centurion’s confession in this way:

Slide # 15

Luke 23:47 (NKJV)

47 So when the centurion saw what had happened, **he glorified God**, saying, “Certainly this was a righteous Man!”

This was not just pagan awe for the awesomeness of the circumstances, no, this was sincerely giving God the glory. The NASB translates it, “***he began praising God***”.

Amazingly this Roman Centurion in the death of Christ affirmed the very thing that so enraged the Jewish religious leaders. When Caiaphas, the high priest, had put Christ under oath, he demanded that Jesus say if he was “***the Christ, the Son of God***” and Jesus responded by saying, “***It is as you said.***” The high priest then tore his clothes accusing Him of blasphemy and the whole group said “***He is deserving of death***”. (Mt. 26:63-66).

Jesus being the Son of God was a central issue in His ministry. In Matthew 16 Jesus asked the disciples who people thought He was. They named off various prophets. But then He asked them, “ But who do you say that I am?” Peter under inspiration said, “***You are the Christ, the Son of the living God***”. Jesus then said, He would build His Church on this truth (cf. Matt. 16:13-18).

So the key issue of WHO Jesus is as the Son of God is fundamental to the faith.

John wrote the entire gospel of John so that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and thereby have life (Jn. 20:30-31).

To believe in Jesus as the Son of God is to believe in Him as God – one who is of the very nature and essence of God. This is certainly how the Jews understood it.

Slide # 16

John 5:18 (NKJV)

18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that **God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.**

God saves pagans! He also saves religious people like Paul who said he was the chief of all sinners (1 Tim. 1:15). And a true saving faith starts with recognizing Jesus for Who He is as Lord-God. Undoubtedly this Roman Centurion spoke more than he knew, but very probably this was the stuff of saving faith. We would like to know more about where his story went from here but we don't – even though tradition says he was a true believer.

And we don't want to forget about the Holy Spirit's ministry in all of this. Paul said, "*no one can say that Jesus is Lord [and truly mean it] except by the Holy Spirit*" (1 Cor. 12:3). My take is that this centurion was sincere and that God was at work in his life to bring him to a true confession of faith.

And in this we have Christ's prayer on the cross answered...

Slide # 17

Luke 23:34 (NKJV)

34 Then Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.**" And they divided His garments and cast lots.

The faith of the soldiers is of great significance, and was especially so in the early church. Their testimony was, as it were, Jesus' own final testimony from the cross. Although given after He died, that testimony dramatically proclaimed that His grace extends to every sinner, even to those who put him to death. – **John MacArthur**

55 And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar,

We live in crazy last days perilous times in which people in all out rebellion against all things “God” even want even to defy the nature of God and the God of nature by claiming to be able to change their sex which truly is absurd and delusional.

God created two sexes – “male and female He created them” – look it up it is stated right there in Genesis 1:27- the very first chapter in the Bible. And God created male and female to complement one another. We are different – not the exact same – and we need each other. And both in the plan of God have a beautiful part to play.

Women tend to be more “nurtures” than men and we see this in Jesus’ ministry. There were a band of women that followed Him and ministered to Him. Who do you suppose did the cooking? I am pretty sure that generally it wasn’t the rugged band of fishermen.

Slide # 18

Luke 8:2–3 (NKJV)

2 and **certain women** who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons,

3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward, and Susanna, and **many others who provided for Him from their substance.**

Amazingly, none of the disciples who were so adamant about being willing to die for Jesus are found at the cross (with the exception of John – Jn. 19:35). The disciples are last mentioned in 26:56 (when they fled) and do not reappear again until after the resurrection in 28:16. But these women were there at the cross. They were last at the cross and first to the tomb on resurrection Sunday (cf. Mt. 27:61; 28:1). There is something precious in the sight of the Lord about their ministering/nurturing love and devotion.

Sympathetic loyalty is one of the most beautiful and distinguishing characteristics of godly women, generally being more evident in them than in godly men. A spiritual woman has the capacity for incredible loyalty in the face of ridicule and danger. – **John MacArthur**

“To their everlasting honour, these women evidenced more *courage*, and *affectionate attachment* to their Lord and Master, than the disciples did, who had promised to *die* with him rather than forsake him.” (**Adam Clarke**)

It says “**many women**” were there but we don’t know how many. But Matthew names these three in particular...

56 among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.

First mentioned is “**Mary Magdalene**” who had been delivered from seven demons (Lk. 8:2). Her love for Jesus ever after was a stand out example of devotion.

“**Mary the mother of James and Joses**”. The “James” in view here is thought to be one of the apostles commonly referred to as “James the Less” (Mark 15:40) or as “James the son of Alphaeus (Mt. 10:3; Acts 1:13). This second Mary was also at the tomb on Resurrection morning (Matt. 28:1; Mk. 16:1).

The third woman is said to be the mother of Zebedee’s sons who happened to be James and John (Matt. 4:21) whom Jesus referred to as the “**Sons of Thunder**” (Mk. 3:17). They too were apostles. Their mother, who elsewhere is called “Salome” (Mk. 15:40) at one point asked Jesus to favor her sons by having one sit on His right hand and one on the left in the kingdom (Mt. 20:20-21). She was just doing what mothers do – looking out for her boys – those Sons of Thunder. She was actually a sister to Jesus’ mother Mary making her an aunt of Jesus and making James and John the cousins of Jesus (Jn. 19:25).

From John 19:26 we learn that Jesus’ mother (Mary) was also present at the cross – and of course there many others as noted in verse 55.

Our text today brings out the TWO great truths of the faith about Jesus that must be embraced in saving faith. That being that Jesus is SAVIOR as signified in veil that was torn from top to bottom; and also in Him being the Son of God as confessed by the centurion. This is what we must believe and personally appropriate – that Jesus is Savior and Lord-God and it must be personal.

Thomas upon seeing the risen Lord said, “**My Lord and my God!**” and Jesus said, “you have believed.” (Jn. 20:28-29). We must personally appropriate the truth of WHO Jesus is as Savior and Lord.

Jesus as Savior and Lord is the great emphasis even at the foot of the cross as seen in our text today.

Slide # 19**1 John 4:14–15 (NKJV)**

14 And we have seen and testify that the **Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.**

15 Whoever **confesses that Jesus is the Son of God**, God abides in him, and he in God.

A saving faith believes on Jesus as Savior and Lord God and the evidence that it is real is that we are willing to confess it. Now, anyone can say words. Many on judgment day will say, “Lord, Lord” but it was not real and Jesus will expose them as phony, saying, “I never knew you, depart from Me” (Mt. 7:21-23).

True faith is real in the heart and if it is real in the heart it confesses with the mouth.

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV)

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

What say you? Who is Jesus to you?

Matthew 10:32–33 (NKJV)

32 “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

If you would like to confess Christ today – we elders will be up front after the service to hear your confession. We are available to help you in any way that we can. We would love to pray with you!