

The Miracles of Jesus

Lesson Thirty-Nine

Miracles Connected with the Crucifixion of Jesus

Text: Matthew 27:45-53; Mark 15:33-41; Luke 23:44-49

Introduction:

1. After Jesus healed the ear of Malchus, He was arrested and led away to stand trial before Annas, Caiaphas, the Sanhedrin, Pilate and Herod.
2. During this time, Jesus was mocked, beaten, denied by Peter, scourged, and ridiculed by the Roman soldiers.
3. Then, on the hill of Golgotha, also called Calvary, He was crucified.
 - a. Jesus was crucified at the third hour, about nine o'clock in the morning.
 - b. For three hours, he hanged in agony and made three recorded statements.
 - i. "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).
 - ii. "Woman, behold thy son! Behold thy mother!" (John 19:26-27).
 - iii. "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).
4. At the sixth hour – twelve noon – the first miracle associated with the crucifixion occurred.

I. The First Miracle – Darkness over the Land

- A. From noon until three o'clock, there was darkness over the whole land.
 1. Luke wrote that the sun was darkened, but this was not an eclipse.
 2. The feast of Passover was always kept at the time of the full moon.
 3. Thus, God miraculously caused the light of the sun to be hidden from the earth.
- B. The meaning of the miracle
 1. The failing of the light of the sun indicated the importance of the event taking place at Calvary.
 2. It illustrated the darkness of sin that Jesus was bearing on the cross (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24).
 3. It symbolized the end of the Jewish economy (Amos 8:1-9).
 4. It marked the terrible suffering of the Lord.
 - a. In the darkness, Jesus made four other statements.
 - b. "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)
 - c. "I thirst" (John 19:28).
 - d. "It is finished" (John 19:30).
 - e. "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46).
- C. Thus, at the ninth hour, Jesus gave up the ghost and died.

II. The Second Miracle – Rending of the Veil of the Temple

- A. Upon His death, two more amazing miracles occurred, perhaps simultaneously.
- B. First, we read that the "veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom."

- C. The veil was an important part of the design of the tabernacle and the temple.
 - 1. It is described in Exodus 26:31-34.
 - 2. Its purpose was to separate the holy place from the most holy place.
 - 3. It symbolized the fact that way to God was not yet available (Hebrews 9:7-10).
 - 4. But, with His death, Jesus made the way to reconciliation, salvation, fellowship and even Heaven accessible to man (Hebrews 9:11-14; 10:19-20).
 - 5. He also brought about the end of the Old Covenant and established the New (Hebrews 9:15-23; cf. Ephesians 2:13-18).
 - 6. Further, He proved Himself as man's great and eternal High Priest (Hebrews 9:24-28).
- D. Notice that the veil was torn from top to bottom – not from bottom to top.

III. The Third Miracle – Earthquake that Opened the Tombs

- A. Next, we read of a great earthquake that caused rocks to be split apart and sepulchers to be opened.
 - 1. In that region, tombs were often carved out of rock and the bodies within hidden by a stone rolled in front of the entrance.
 - 2. An earthquake that caused rocks to be split would create open access to many of these graves.
- B. This opening of the tombs symbolized the fact that Jesus had conquered death by His own death upon the cross (Hebrews 2:14-15; 2 Timothy 2:10).
- C. Imagine, for the three days Jesus was in the grave, people could peer into tombs throughout the land and see the decaying bodies of the dead.
- D. Yet, on the first day of the week, an even greater miracle took place...

IV. The Fourth Miracle – Resurrection of Many Saints

- A. After Jesus was raised from the dead, “many bodies of the saints which slept arose.”
 - 1. Jesus was the first to rise from the dead (Acts 26:23; 1 Corinthians 15:20, 23; Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:5).
 - 2. After His resurrection, these faithful followers of God had life restored to their bodies.
 - 3. They were able to come out of their graves, for the earthquake had opened them by rending the stones.
- B. These resurrected saints went into the city of Jerusalem and were seen by many people.
- C. This served as confirmation of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
- D. It also established the fact of the resurrection of all men at the end of time.
- E. The reaction of the centurion shows the power of Jesus' death and these miracles – he concluded that Jesus truly was “the Son of God.”
- F. Yet, in spite of all these miracles, the people of Jerusalem continued in sin and rebellion against God and, in a matter of years, saw their city destroyed.

V. The Manifestation

- A. These miracles confirmed the significance of Jesus' death on the cross – it was not an ordinary crucifixion.
- B. They proved His deity – He is the Messiah and the Son of God.
- C. They demonstrated God's approval of the sacrifice of His only begotten Son.
- D. They assure the faithful of the truth of the Gospel – death is conquered, resurrection is certain and victory is promised.