

Garden to Garden Part 7

FAQs: Frequently Asked Questions about the Significance of the Cross

Matthew 27:32-56

Q: What was the fundamental problem that the crucifixion of Jesus was meant to solve?

A: The central dilemma was how a God of both infinite mercy and perfect justice could reconcile these seemingly opposing attributes in dealing with sinful humanity. God's love desires to show mercy, yet His justice demands that sin and evil be addressed with appropriate condemnation. The cross provides the singular solution where both divine justice and mercy intersect.

Q: How does the cross simultaneously demonstrate God's justice and His mercy?

A: At the cross, God's justice is fully satisfied because the penalty for sin – death – is paid in full by Jesus. This upholds God's righteous standard. At the same time, God's mercy and love are displayed through the offer of forgiveness and salvation to all who believe in Jesus, as the punishment was borne by Christ in our place.



Q: The sermon mentioned the "wickedness of man" at the cross. What examples of this are provided in Matthew 27?

A: The wickedness of humanity is evident in several ways: the beating and flogging of Jesus to the point of being unrecognizable, the forcing of Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross, the act of crucifixion itself, the division of Jesus' garments, the mockery and insults hurled at Him by passersby, chief priests, elders, scribes, and even the criminals crucified with him. Worst of all, the wickedness of man is seen in the failure to recognize the glory of Jesus and the rejection of Him as the Son of God.

Q: The sermon identified five "awe-inspiring attributes of God" displayed at the cross. What are they and how are they manifested?

A: The five attributes are:

Justice: Manifested by the supernatural darkness that fell over the land for three hours, symbolizing God's judgment against sin.

Holiness: Demonstrated by the Father's temporary distancing from Jesus as He bore the sin of humanity, signifying God's utter purity and rejection of sin. *

Sovereignty: Evident in Jesus' declaration "It is finished" (referring to His redemptive work) and His



conscious decision to yield His spirit, showing that His death was not at the whim of human power but according to God's plan and timing.

Grace: Displayed by the tearing of the thick curtain in the temple that separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple, signifying that the way to God's presence is now open to all through Jesus' sacrifice, not through human merit or ritual.

Omnipotence: Seen in the earthquake, the splitting of rocks, and the opening of tombs, with some of the resurrected saints appearing in Jerusalem after Jesus' own resurrection, showcasing God's ultimate power over creation and death.

Q: What is the significance of the temple curtain being torn from top to bottom at the moment of Jesus' death?

A: The tearing of the temple curtain, specifically the one separating the Holy of Holies, was a dramatic divine act signifying the removal of the barrier between God and humanity. Previously, only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies once a year to offer sacrifices. With Jesus' sacrifice, the way to God's presence is now accessible to everyone through grace, not restricted by religious intermediaries or human limitations.



Q: According to the sermon, what should be the personal response of individuals to the events that transpired at the cross?

A: The text leads individuals to "see God" at the cross and to recognize Jesus as the Son of God, Savior, and Lord. For those who have not yet done so, it presents the cross as the place to trust in Jesus for salvation from sin. For those who have already believed, it calls for worship and praise to God for His justice, holiness, sovereignty, grace, and omnipotence displayed through the sacrifice of His Son.

