

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE

Matthew 27:45-54--March 31st, 2024 (EASTER)



Sermon Recap:

Rendering the Veil

I. Barring Access

a. What is the Veil?

- The veil Matthew is referring to is the third veil in the tabernacle/temple that separates the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.
- The Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies) is the portion of the temple containing the Ark of the Covenant, upon which the mercy seat sits.

b. What does the Veil do?

- This veil bars access to the presence of God. It prevents anyone from even looking upon the mercy seat where God dwells.
- The only person permitted to enter the Most Holy Place was the High Priest, once a year on the Day of Atonement.
- Sacrifices and ritualistic cleansing must be performed before he can enter. Any unauthorized or inappropriate access resulted in death.
- The veil is a symbol of our separation from God. As sinful people we are not permitted to enter into the presence of a Holy God.
- It is a reminder that:
 - We are separated from God.
 - Our sin must be dealt with.

II. Opening the Door

- Christ dealt with our sin.
 - He became a propitiation for our sin, diverting the wrath of God from us to Himself (Roman. 3:23-26, 4:3-8).
 - We are no longer seen as sinner, but as righteous.
 - This work was finished in Christ's sacrifice, tearing the veil, and forever opening the door to his sheep, granting access the Most Holy Place (the presence of God).

III. Taking Advantage of the Privilege

a. Enter in Confidence

- Because Christ entered "once for all" into the holy places as our High Priest and sacrifice, we have the assurance of salvation and confidence of hope to stand with Christ in the presence of God (Hebrews 6:13-20; 9:1-28; 10:19-23).

b. Stand Alone

- Without Christ, you have no hope, no confidence. You are still standing behind the massive veil of your own sin, separated from Holy God. You have no access; no refuge.
- We must repent and put on the holy linens of Christ righteousness by faith.

Discussion Questions:

- What is the veil in the tabernacle/temple?
- What is the purpose of the veil?
- Who can enter behind the veil?
- What are the requirements for entering behind the veil?
- What is the spiritual significance of the veil?
- Of what does the repetition of the sacrificial system remind us?
- What is the significance of the veil being torn?
- How did Christ rend the veil?
- What does that mean for believers today?
- What does it mean for unbelievers?

Application:

- Do you have confidence and hope in the promises of God?
- How does the torn veil and empty tomb strengthen that confidence and hope?
- What tendencies do you have to trust in your works or own efforts to deal with your sin?
- What does the presence of the veil teach you about those tendencies?
- What should be your response to the cry, "It is finished," and the torn veil?

