

Morning Sermon May 10, 2015

“Delivered from the Power of Darkness” Luke 23:44-48

I. *Understand the darkness surrounding the cross*

– ⁴⁴ Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

1. *The sixth hour was our 12 NOON, not a time typically known for darkness.*
2. *It was dark from 12 noon to 3 pm, three hours, the last three hours of Jesus time on the cross (He had a total of about six hours on the cross.)*
3. *The darkness was a physical darkness, not necessarily evil in and of itself –*

² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day. (Genesis 1:2-5 NKJ)

There was darkness even at the beginning of creation, before sin, but only light is called “good.”

4. *Yet, this was much more terrible than simple physical darkness, this was a prophesied darkness of judgment / wrath –*

"And it shall come to pass in that day," says the Lord GOD, "That I will make the sun go down at noon, And I will darken the earth in broad daylight; (Amos 8:9 NKJ)

¹⁵ That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, (Zephaniah 1:15 NKJ)

5. *This darkness was connected to sin and a consequence of sin –*

⁵³ "When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness." (Luke 22:53 NKJ)

- A. *Sins are called unfruitful works of darkness –*

¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. (Ephesians 5:11 NKJ)

- B. *Demonic rulers of a wicked world are called “the rulers of darkness” –*

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12 NKJ)

- C. *Darkness is a characteristic of the hateful lost, the kind of people who nailed Jesus to the cross –*

⁸ Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. ⁹ He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. ¹⁰ He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹ But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. (1John 2:8-11 NKJ)

6. *Yet, even worse than all before darkness is part of the ultimate judgment of God –*

³⁰ 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' (Matthew 25:30 NKJ)

⁴ For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; (2 Peter 2:4 NKJ)

¹⁵ They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; ¹⁶ but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet. ¹⁷ These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. (2 Peter 2:15-17 NKJ)

II. *The dark judgment due sin –*

Though the darkness which enveloped the cross consisted of ALL the ABOVE kinds of Darkness, it was ultimately, especially, and painfully the darkness of the judgment of God due sin –

1. *It is not part of Luke's Gospel but in Matthew and Mark we read of Jesus' cry from the dark –*

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God,

why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:45-46 NKJ) See also Mark 15:33-34

- A. The darkness surrounding the cross represented the judgment of God. It was evidence of God the Father removing ALL of His comforting presence far from His Son!
- B. For three hours on the cross Jesus would be forsaken by God, judged by God, for our sins –

2. This is what Jesus had prayed for: In Luke 23:34 we hear Jesus PRAYING for our forgiveness –

³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. (Luke 23:34 NKJ)

In Matthew 27:45-46 we hear Jesus PAYING for our forgiveness!

3. This is the substitutionary atonement –
We discuss this during the ladies Bible study:

A. Expiation means God removed our sins far from us –
¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12 NKJ)

B. Propitiation means God's righteous wrath against sin was appeased, satisfied, placated!

Our sins deserved the wrath, which Jesus Christ took upon Himself on the cross – **Romans 5:1-11**

III. It is because this debt has been PAID, the veil of the temple is torn in two –

⁴⁵ Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. (Luke 23:45 NKJ)

There was no longer a barrier between God and man –

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. (Hebrews 4:16 NKJ)

1. Those with eyes to SEE in the dark were saved –

⁴⁶ And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Having said this, He breathed His

last. ⁴⁷ So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!" (Luke 23:46-47 NKJ)

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!" (Matthew 27:54 NKJ)

There is sunshine in my soul today, more glorious and bright, than any earthly sky can give, because JESUS is my Light!

For my eyes have seen Your salvation ³¹ Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, ³² A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel." (Luke 2:30-32 NKJ)

¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:13-14 NKJ)

2. Others walked away, beating their breasts –
⁴⁸ And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned. (Luke 23:48 NKJ)

This was an expression of sorrow, possibly also guilt, but not necessarily repentance. With all that happened probably FEAR as well, the destruction of Jerusalem soon would happen...

Notice the difference **Luke 23:49-56**

If we reject Jesus Christ, or simply do not trust in Christ; there is not another Savior – ²⁶ For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. (Hebrews 10:26-27 NKJ)

Jesus is the LIGHT -

² The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation And increased its joy; They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil. (Isaiah 9:2-3 NKJ) Do we dwell in darkness? Don't we need a LIGHT? Jesus is the Light –

Let us love Him / follow Him – John 3:19-21; John 8:12 and be lights ourselves – Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:12-15; 1 John 1:5-9

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