

Easter 2021 Series

“The Saddest Day in History!”

Matthew 27:45-54

March 28, 2021 - Bob Hightchew

Introduction:

- **Matthew 26:26-29**
- **Matthew 26:39**
- **Matthew 26:42**
- **Matthew 26:48-49**
- **Matthew 26**
- **Matthew 27**
- **Matthew 27:45-54**
- Before we get to our first point, I can think of a few days that were very sad:
- As a nation:
 - December 7, 1941 – Pearl Harbor
 - April 19, 1995 – Oklahoma City Bombing
 - September 11, 2001 – World Trade Center, Pentagon and Shanksville, PA.
- For the World:
 - WWI – 1914
 - WWII – 1939
- As a nation there are many sad days that have affected us as a people, but WWI and WWII affected the most people at one time.
- But ... There is one day that is by far the Saddest Day in all History.

1. The Sixth to the Ninth Hour:

- a. **Matthew 27:45-46**
- b. From 12pm-3pm ... Literally, three hours that changed the world.
- c. The Day of Strange Darkness – This was written about by more than just the Biblical writers. Just to name a few - Tacitus ... Suetonius ... and Josephus.
- d. Greek – **Skotos** ... English – **Darkness** ... Which means ... “A condition resulting from a complete absence of light.”
- e. Greek - **Pas** ... English – **All** ... Which means ... “Everything, All ... the Whole of it.”
- f. Darkness in both the Old and New Testaments has always symbolized wickedness ... judgement ... and death. It is the opposite of God, who is the Light of the world. Salvation brings light ... sin brings darkness
- g. **Luke 22:52-53**
- h. **Amos 5:18**
- i. **Amos 5:20**
- j. **Matthew 25:30**
- k. **1st Thessalonians 5:4-7**
- l. Darkness is the opposite of who God is.
- m. A few verses about the Light of God:
- n. **Isaiah 9:2**
- o. **1st John 1:5-7**
- p. **2nd Corinthians 4:4-7**
- q. **1st Peter 2:9**

r. **Philippians 2:5-11**

s. When Jesus was on the Cross, the sins of the world were placed upon Him and the wrath of God was focused on Jesus. There was a separating of the Trinity due to our sins.

t. **Matthew 27:46**

u. Jesus felt the separation of the Trinity and the burden of all the sins of man on Him.

v. The Father did NOT forsake Him, HE removed His Presence.

w. And for a moment in time ... The Trinity was separated.

x. Jesus was separated from the Trinity for the first time ever in history, so that you and I would not be separated forever when we die.

y. Do you really understand that?

z. From Gethsemane to this moment, Jesus faced:

- i. The Pressure of Fear
- ii. The Pressure of Loneliness
- iii. The Pressure of Silence
- iv. Mock Trials
- v. Pilate
- vi. Being Flogged
- vii. Three Hours of Darkness

2. It is Finished!

a. **John 19:28-30**

b. The Greek word for ... Finished ... is ... **Teleo** – (Ta-lay-o) – Which means, “Finished ... Complete ... Accomplished ... Paid-In-Full.”

c. **Matthew 27:50**

d. Five Things to keep in Mind with this passage:

- i. This was a shout of Victory!
- ii. Jesus willingly gave up His Spirit – **John 10:17-18.**
- iii. Jesus gave up His Spirit on the ninth hour.
- iv. The Veil was Torn.
- v. The earthquake:
 1. Tremendous weight of man’s sins:
 2. The Bondage of sin had been broken:
- vi. The Earth crying out at the Victory over sin.

e. Regardless of the symbolism of “It is Finished!” We know what it meant to Jesus ... But what does it mean to you?

f. When Jesus said, “It is Finished” it meant:

- i. My fear of not being with Christ was finished!
- ii. The idea that would be forever separated from God was finished!
- iii. My shame was finished!
- iv. My insecurities were finished!
- v. The feelings of worthlessness were finished!

g. But these things can only be finished if I am part of the Family of God.

h.

3. The Centurion:

a. **Matthew 27:54**

b. Roman soldiers were very hard and calloused men.

c. Several things to keep in mind when we talk about this Centurion:

- i. Rome would have had spies around Jesus all the time.
- ii. This Centurion and his unit may have been assigned to watch Jesus – **Matthew 8:5-10**



- iii. This Centurion at the cross had seen many crucifixions before ... BUT ... Jesus didn't die like anyone he had ever seen.
 - 1. This Centurion and his men would have never experienced the darkness that they were in from 12-3pm ... Ever.
 - 2. Then to hear Jesus cry out, "It is Finished!" and then experience the earthquake.
- d. That Jesus would have to feel the pressure of fear ... the pressure of Loneliness ... the pressure of Silence ... and then ... feel the presence of His Father slip away, because of our sins ... that is the saddest day in history.
- e. Your life of sin and failure will walk you to the Cross all day long ... That happens on a Friday!
- f. But Jesus wants you to know ... that Sunday is coming!

