

Sermon Discussion Guide:

The Death of Jesus

Scripture: **Luke 23:44–49**

Series: **The Gospel of Luke**

Sunday, August 23, 2020

OVERVIEW

Pastor Joe described a scenario where a couple of guys attended a UFC fight in Vegas and were essentially treated like VIPs, even though they didn't have the legitimate access to enter the arena. In today's passage in Luke, we learn that the death of Jesus is the only legitimate access to God and entrance into God's kingdom. Moreover, the death of Jesus permanently eliminated the need for temple sacrifices and the intercession of priests, since Jesus secured an eternal redemption. Yet because Jesus was an innocent man (see Luke 23:47), we are reminded that the death of Jesus is free to us, but it wasn't free to Him. Because Jesus willingly paid the price for our guilt and shame, **the death of Jesus grants full and free access to God.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Isaiah 13:9-10; Joel 2:30-31; Matthew 27:45-46; Hebrews 9:11-14; Hebrews 10:19-22; John 10:11; Matthew 27:54

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Before coming to realize that Jesus is the Son of God and embracing the gospel, did you believe there were other paths to God other than through Jesus? If so, what were they?
2. Why is Jesus' death our only hope? *[Jesus' death secured an eternal redemption, without which there is no access to God. Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross demonstrated God's love toward us while also averting His wrath against us—see Romans 5:8-9.]*
3. In verses 44 and 45, Luke describes how darkness came over the whole land and the sun stopped shining. What did this darkness denote, and why was this significant?
4. In verse 44, Luke describes how the curtain of the temple was torn in two. What did this signify? *[atonement and access—thus there's no longer a need for a priestly class]*
5. Do you sometimes feel that you are not acceptable to God? If so, what do you think causes this feeling? Which of God's promises do you need to remember and cling to?
6. Do you care about the access that you have to God? Are you making good use of it? If not, what can you do to make better use of it?