

THE DIVINE PREACHER... and His greatest sermon  
THE DIVINE PREACHER... and His greatest sermon  
(Matthew 27:45-52)

The Lord Jesus Christ was a man of supreme confidence, who was never surprised into rash action, and walked calmly along the path of His Father's will. When the crowd endeavoured to push Him over the brow of a hill, He passed through their midst and no one could hurt Him. When Peter would have attacked the enemies in the garden of Gethsemane, the Lord told him to put away his sword, for had it been necessary twelve legions of angels could have been summoned to His assistance. Yet of all such instances found in the New Testament the greatest is one of the lesser known. One day when critics and unbelievers refused to accept His authority, Jesus said, "When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he . . . He that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone . . . The Father that sent me beareth witness of me" (John 8 :28-29; 8:18). The Lord Jesus fully realized that when His own voice would be unable to testify, the Father would bear witness of Him. And the way in which His prediction was fulfilled revealed the greatest truth. At the appointed time God preached His sermon-without words.

God witnessed to the purpose of the cross

It was nearly midday when the watching crowds at Calvary first became aware of the changes in the heavens. They had been intently gazing at the sufferers, and many had taunted Christ with their sneers and jeers. Then someone noticed the changing sky and expressed his amazement, for it seemed that the sun was dying. "Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour." And God commenced His sermon! He could not have done a greater thing to witness to the purpose of the cross. Such an event had never taken place before, and has not happened since. The king of the celestial realm was blotted out by an accumulation of dark clouds brought together from all parts of the heavens. As fearful eyes watched the phenomenon, men wondered if the sun would ever be visible again. Then after three hours the welcome radiance filtered through the gloom, and it appeared as though a resurrection had taken place in the sky. God blotted out the sun in order to testify of the other miracle taking place on the cross. There the eternal Son was dying amid the darkness of a world's sin; yet the catastrophe was not to be for ever, for after three days He arose again, nevermore to die.

God witnessed to the path 0! the cross

"And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom." Horrified priests stood appalled as the rending sound destroyed the silence of the sacred house. Unseen hands rudely tore the great veil, to reveal the mercy seat. Only the high priest had seen that sacred emblem, for on the day of atonement he alone was permitted to enter within the holiest place. Now everything had changed. Christ had died to open a new and a living way to the throne of grace, and the rending of the veil demonstrated the fact that what had been a private footpath walked by one privileged leader, had now become a highway along which all might approach the Father. It was not without significance that the break came from

THE DIVINE PREACHER... and His greatest sermon "the top to the bottom." Had it commenced on earth, priests might have seized the veil and brought it together again. The rending came from heaven and continued to the floor, so that even the smallest could have access to the place of communion.

God witnessed to the power of the cross

"And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city and appeared unto many." Probably there were many sorrowful hearts in Jerusalem, where loved ones were sadly missed. Bereavement had removed the joy of homes, and families had been left to mourn. Then this miracle took place. The risen ones seemed to say, "Why do you weep? Dry your eyes, for we are not dead. The Lord has died for us, and through His triumph we live-absent from the body and at home with the Lord." In this extraordinary manner God completed His preaching. His wordless sermon provided the greatest message ever given in this world, and justified the confidence expressed in the prediction of the Saviour. It was heaven's testimony to the value of the death of Christ.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.