

Day Twenty-Five

Jesus: Real, Relevant, Raw and Radical!

Access Granted

Luke 23:44(NLT) *By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. 45 The light from the sun was gone. **And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle.** 46 Then Jesus shouted, **"Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!"** And with those words he breathed his last.*

Matthew 27:50-51(NLT) *And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and **yielded up His spirit.** 51 Then, **behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom;** and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,*

Mark 15:37-38(NLT) *Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. 38 **And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.***

Life is filled with places and events that we would term "limited access allowed". Go to any sporting event and you have certain spaces that only the select few can access. We see the same thing when we travel at airports. We have all these different categories that vary depending on how frequently you fly. For instance, with airlines, there's diamond, platinum, gold, silver or "rock," and depending on your status, that will determine when you can have access to the plane or whether you will be flying on the wing. There is always a price for access. Pay a certain fee and you can have access to a variety of things. The more you pay, the more you access.

Adam and Eve had total access to the Presence of God. They enjoyed unbroken fellowship with the Father. Then because of sin they were banished from the Garden. **Genesis 3:23-24(NLT)** ***"So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. 24 After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life."***

We see that the Lord God places the cherubim to guard access to the Garden that led the way to the tree of life. When the Lord commands Moses to build the tabernacle, He gives him clear instruction. The tabernacle housed the ark of the covenant that was covered by two cherubim, which was symbolic of the presence of God. To separate the Holy Place from the most Holy, was a veil. **Exodus 26:31(ESV)** ***"And you shall make a veil of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. It shall be made with cherubim skillfully worked into it."***

It was the same when Solomon built the temple, **2 Chronicles 3:14(NIV)** “He made the curtain of blue, purple and crimson yarn and fine linen, **with cherubim worked into it.” V33(ESV)** “And you shall hang the veil from the clasps, and bring the ark of the testimony in there within the veil. **And the veil shall separate for you the Holy Place from the Most Holy.”**

The main function of the veil was to separate the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. In the temple that Herod built (which took more than 80 years), the veil was 60 feet long and 30 feet wide. It was big and heavy and took 300 priests to maneuver it. No one could just simply go into the temple. The priests could work in the outer court and could enter the Holy Place but not into the Holy of Holies. This was reserved exclusively for the high priest and that was only on the Day of Atonement. Sinful man could not enter into the Presence of the Most Holy God, to do so meant death.

Hebrews 10:11-14(NLT) “Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. **12 But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God’s right hand. 13** There he waits until his enemies are humbled and made a footstool under his feet. **14** For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy.”

Jesus, rejected by Annas and Caiaphas, the previous and present high priests, became the only Perfect High Priest accepted by the Father. Jesus took Caiaphas’ job...**Matthew 26:64(NKJV)** “Jesus said to him, ‘It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, **hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.**’”

Jesus shouts and when He yields up His Spirit; the very thing that separated all of us from the presence of God is torn. It is not just torn; it is ripped in two. Luke tells us it was torn down the middle, rendering it obsolete. There’s no going backward. It is ripped from the top to the bottom. I can see the Father grabbing the veil and ripping it in two like someone would rip up a bad contract. The Father is saying, “Now they can have what I always wanted them to have, My Presence.” We now have full access to the Father. Our High Priest’s Body was torn and He now has become a new and living way for us. **Hebrews 10:19-20(NLT)** “And so, dear brothers and sisters, **we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. 20** By his death, **Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place.”**

The first Adam faced the devil in the Garden and failed. The Second Adam won. Jesus did not just make a way for us to enter into the presence of God, He is the way for us to enter into the Father's presence. He is more than the way; He is also the door. His flesh was torn and ripped apart for us so that we can experience fellowship with the Father. Jesus is also our High Priest (Caiaphas got permanently canned) over God's House. **21 "And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house..."** You have the keys to the greatest House. You don't have to stand in line. (Glory! I hate lines) You have access to beauty beyond description. You don't have to buy a membership, you don't have to fly a million miles, you don't have to pay a monthly fee (tithing is not your fee). You can just simply go in! When you go through "the Door" and you walk in "the Way," you will find you are always welcome in your Father's house.

The Hebrew writer communicates so clearly what Jesus did for us and then encourages us to do several things: **Hebrews 10:22-25(NLT) "Let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. 24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."**

Let us go in to God's presence, let us hold tightly to the hope we affirm, let us think of ways to motivate one another and let's get together! (Soon, church, soon) All of this, because of Jesus. The veil is torn; Jesus spoke the final words on that: **"Father into your Hands I commit My Spirit."** What a privilege we have to be able to enter into the very presence of God; not just simply enter, but enter boldly. We don't have to tread lightly. We don't have to grovel on our hands and knees. We don't have to fear rejection.

Considering the price that Jesus paid so that we could have access to the Father, why do we struggle to pray?

You have full access, what are you waiting for? Go in!

Prayer:

- **Take time to be in the Presence of the Lord; just simply rest.**
- **Thank the Lord Jesus that He is your High Priest.**
- **Ask the Lord to help you reaffirm the hope in His promise.**
- **Pray that you will have creative ideas to motivate others to do good.**