

MATTHEW



April 13, 2025

WHY?

Matthew 27:45-61

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The pervasive human question “why?”

- Curiosity... Rebellion... Brokenness
- If God is so good and great, why so much unfairness and pain?
- Jumping too fast to “answers”
- YOUR deepest “whys?”?

The “Why?” of the dying Jesus – Matthew 27:45-50

- Unjustly condemned to death as religious blasphemer and political subversive
- Darkness over the city... darkness in a soul
 - *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*

Why this “Why?”

- Not as despairing as it seems?
 - Just beginning the lament but then trust of Psalm 22?
- OR total solidarity with human alienation from God?
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21 – “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us...”
 - Isaiah 53:4-5 – “he bore our suffering... was crushed for our iniquities”
- “Accomplished” (John 19:30; Matthew 27:50?)
 - Defeat of the Powers (sin and death, world and Satan)
 - Reconciliation with God for dawn of new creation

What if we placed OUR deepest “whys?” into HIS redeeming “why?”

- Free to get honest with God in our doubts, fears, regrets, anger
- Soak in claims of cross: drawn not necessarily into “answers,” but into faith, hope, love
- Friday “sneak previews” (Matthew 27:51-61)
 - Dramatic sign of new access to God (51)
 - Weird anticipation of new creation (52-53)
 - Clear declaration of who’s the Lord (54)
 - Courageous acts of compassion (53-61)
- “With us God weeps... so that one day with him we may laugh” (Jurgen Moltmann)