

Cameos of the Cross (Mark 15:33-42)

- The crucified Christ is a divinely given diagram of God's love.
- Taking in its scenes our hearts ought to continually respond this is how I am loved
- There should be no room in us for distant intellectualizing of the Cross.
- Last week's focus was the Crucifixion itself, now we focus on the death of Christ
- Jesus' death reveals the unfathomable depths to which He went in atoning our sin

I. The Revelation of Death in Jesus Death (15:33-37)

- Jesus' death dramatically emphasized by darkness which engulfed the Cross (33)
- 6th hour was 12 noon: the sun was in its zenith. For three hours there was darkness
- It was a sign of mourning. Amos speaks darkness on the Day of the Lord (8:9,10)
- Cross is draped in the mourning sackcloth of darkness along with the wrath of God
- Finally He became a curse for us, in the darkness Jesus bore it all for us (Gal 3:13)
- Then came the end, after Jesus' silence for three hours He broke the silence (v34)
- With Jesus' ringing declaration of abandonment the darkness began to lift (v35)
- John reports Jesus said at this point, I thirst (John 19:28) Mark continues (36)
- After "I thirst" John says, He let out a final cry "it is finished" (19:30; Lk 23:46)

II. The Revelation of the Effects of the Atonement on Jesus' Death (15:38-41)

- Above all, its effects were liberating (38) temple curtain, torn from top to bottom
- Matthew fills out the details (27:51-53) Because of Jesus' blood we can come near
- Torn veil & open tombs say it all. Christ's death liberates from the bonds of death
- Full freedom: what the Cross offers-spiritual liberty now that ends in resurrection
- Not only did the Cross have a liberating effect it also had a revelational effect
- The centurion who was charged with the execution had seen everything
- He saw Jesus' explosive, triumphant death & he gave this believing response v39
- Jesus' death carefully considered, as the Centurion did, reveals who he was and is
- We who know the Lord see so much more than the soldier, for we see the agony
- We see the depths to which Jesus went in order to redeem us
- We see that He became a curse for us so that we might become righteousness
- We see Him totally alone, undergoing the trauma of separation from the Father
- The Cross draws us. The women who were watching are a picture of this (v 41,42)
- He endured: wrath of God in our stead & shouted "it is finished" for his children