



Rock Point Church

Bill Bush | 3.29.26

Big Idea: The darkest day did the deepest good.

Matthew 27:45–51 (NLT)

⁴⁵ At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock.

⁴⁶ At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

⁴⁷ Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. ⁴⁸ One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. ⁴⁹ But the rest said, "Wait! Let's see whether Elijah comes to save him."

⁵⁰ Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart,

- **When life gets dark, remember His cross.**
- **When you feel alone, remember His cry.**
- **When God feels far, remember His curtain.**

GROUPS QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out to you most in this week's message, and why?
2. Read Matthew 27:45–51. What stands out to you most about what is happening during these moments on the cross?
3. Pastor Bill described Good Friday as a day that looked dark and hopeless, yet accomplished something good. Why do you think it can be so hard to trust that God is working in the middle of our dark seasons?
4. Darkness covered the land while Jesus was on the cross. How does that shape your understanding of the seriousness of sin and what Jesus was carrying?
5. Read Matthew 27:46. What stands out to you about Jesus crying out to God in that moment?
6. Jesus experienced deep suffering and still cried out to God. What does that show us about how we can respond when we feel alone or overwhelmed?
7. Read Matthew 27:51. What does the tearing of the curtain reveal about our access to God?
8. When life feels dark or God feels distant, what are some ways you tend to respond, and why can it be difficult to move toward God instead?
9. When you think about your own life right now, where are you most tempted to either minimize your sin or question God's love?
10. As you reflect on this season, what is one step you sense God inviting you to take to trust His love more deeply or draw closer to Him in a place where you have felt distant?