

Matthew 27:45-54 New International Version 1984 (NIV1984)

The Death of Jesus

⁴⁵ From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶ About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

⁴⁷When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split ⁵² and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and^[c] went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"



≈ EUCHARISTEO «

Giving thanks

In a world plunged into deep **DARKNESS**

Jesus asks "Why" (for what reason?)

♦ It is Proof of God's <u>AVAILABILITY</u>

"The temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom." v51

♦ It is a Proof of <u>RESURRECTION</u> Life

"The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life." v 52

♦ It is Proof that Lives are CHANGED

They exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

3 questions of SELF-examination (1 Cor 11:28)

1. Do I know God?

- 2. Is there behavior/attitude/action that causes God pain?
- 3. Is there behavior/attitude/action that causes someone else pain?

Sacred Journey

What does it mean to be created in the Imago Dei?

When God created human beings, we are told that we were fashioned out of the dust of the earth and that he breathed into us the breath of life. We were *"created in His own image."* We should not understand that the image of God means that we physically look like God or that God has a physical body like us. "God is spirit" John 4:24

The idea that we are created in the image of God generally refers to three distinct capacities which have been granted to the human race. The first is a **spiritual capacity (light)**. This means that we are meant to reflect his nature in the world. The image of God is like a mirror. We are to "mirror" or "reflect" God's character and presence in the world. We are to reflect his holiness, his righteousness, his love, his creativity, and so forth. Indeed, we are to reflect every attribute of God which can possibly be communicated to a finite person. The second feature of the image of **God is relational (love)**. We have the capacity to know God and to communicate with him. We also have capacities for relationships with one another which are profound and glorious. We can truly love God and our neighbor. Finally the image of God grants us the capacity to represent God (legacy) in the world. We are ambassadors in the world. We are to govern the world and share in His rule and reign over it. God always remains sovereign over the universe, but he has delegated the care and nurture of the earth to us. We are commanded to fill the earth, rule over it, care for it, and subdue it for His glory and our good.

Read: Genesis 1:26-27, 1 Cor. 15:49, 2 Cor. 3:17-18 Gather of Jesus and his disciples,