

The Power of Grace Part 1

The Torn Veil | Easter 2021 | Jordan Biel

What do I want them to know? Our sin required a sacrifice. Jesus is our sacrifice. The veil was a barrier between sinful man and a holy God. The veil/separation was torn when Jesus died and rose again. His power over death became our power over death. We are united w/God.

What do I want them to feel? Repentant for their sin. Thankful for Jesus.

What do I want them to do? Submit their lives to Jesus and trust HIM for resurrection power over death.

VIDEO: HE'S STILL RISEN ([This plays right after I say Amen ... Offering](#)) as "bumper"

I'm so glad He's still risen! His power over death hasn't changed! It was so awesome to worship with you today.

Welcome to Rock of Grace! We are leading people to follow Jesus together and pray that you will join us in following Jesus together! Before we begin the sermon, let's pray and invite God to meet us in a special way.

PRAYER

God I pray that today our hearts would be open to hear what YOU want to say to us. Holy Spirit, we welcome you to challenge us and invite us closer to the the heart of God. Show us the beauty and power of Jesus. Cause us to be more surrendered than ever before. In Jesus' name, AMEN!

I'm so glad you're here today on EASTER!

Today is the the most important day of the year for us as Christians! It's the day we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, JESUS! If you're a guest with us today, we welcome you and we're praying that you encounter Jesus! We pray you experiences His power and His love like we have! It will change you FOREVER!

The power of grace is the sermon title for today and for this month sermon series in April.

The power of grace is that Creator God, who is perfectly holy, was willing to forgive and restore us - sinful man. His power over death is our power over death!

Before we talk about Jesus rising from the dead, let's back up. I though it'd be good for us to look at God's first covenant with His people. Let's back up over 1,500 years.

In Exodus we learn that God had rescued His people Israel from the abusive hand of Pharaoh, an evil, self-centered ruler who had enslaved them in Egypt.

You may have heard of Moses, the man God used to speak to Pharaoh and rescue God's people through miracles. God delivered them from slavery in Egypt through many miracles, most notably the red sea splitting in two so God's people could walk across on dry land. Fish and sea creatures swimming on either said of that wall of water. WOW. A miracle of salvation!

God's rescue of His people has always been marked by the miraculous.

The exodus from Egypt was miraculous!

The tabernacle (tent of meeting) was miraculous!

The miraculous fire by night and cloud by day!

The miraculous food and water for all 3 million people - provided by God every single day in the desert!

The Tabernacle in the 1st Covenant was a type of a service order for worship” - Zach Neese
 The Tabernacle or Tent of Meeting, was a way in which God could be united with His special creation, mankind. A sacrifice was necessary to atone for our sins. The veil (curtain) separated Holy God from sinful man. The sacrifice provided unity between God and man.

Think of the tabernacle as the first “church” and don’t forget something we say here often ...
God always wanted a family. The Holy Spirit goes forth throughout the earth, inviting people to look upon Jesus and find hope and truth. Jesus becomes our brother as we trust in Him, making His Father, *our* Father! WOW!

The Tabernacle had many elements that serve as a picture of how we find unity or oneness or some might say connection with God. It had many elements and we won’t go through them all of course today; we’ve been doing that in David University, our ministry training program, but we are going to touch on just a few.

All of these items and processes in the Tabernacle present pictures of Jesus and the power of grace!

1st TABERNACLE PICTURE UP ON SCREEN

There was an outer courtyard where people would enter reverently with their offering. There was an Altar where a sacrifice was made. Exodus 27:1-2
 Next there was The Laver, a bronze basin of water that showed the reflection of the priests offering worship. Aaron and his sons were required by God to wash their hands and feet there before proceeding in worship.
 Next there was the Holy Place as you can see with that white arrow.
 If you look at the yellow arrow, you’ll see there was a curtain known as “the veil” that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.

2nd TABERNACLE PICTURE UP ON SCREEN

The High Priest would go behind the veil to sacrifice a lamb once per year to atone (pay for) the sins of all the people. This veil separated man from God.

There was limited access. God in His mercy was with them in the desert. There WAS a cloud of smoke that gave them shade all day long. There was a pillar of fire all night long that gave them a sense of connection with God - all of that a sign, pictures of God’s grace and power. But the High Priest entered the holy place once a year to make atonement for us - to pay the penalty of everyone’s sin. There was a process of purification and sacrifice required by God.

All this served as a picture of God’s holy law and righteous judgments for HE is the righteous judge. Truth, unlike modern day belief, is NOT subjective. There is not “my truth” or “your truth” there is only THE truth.

Just like there is gravity and your feet are stuck to the floor, there is a righteous Judge who is perfectly RIGHT in ALL his decisions and actions because He HIMSELF is perfectly right.

He gave us the law and this tabernacle to show us how holy He is and yet to also show us that we can have connection with Him through Jesus.

What I want you to understand is that...

GOD is the one who initiates our redemption.

Hundreds of years later, JESUS, God's only Son, is given to mankind. He's born to a young virgin named Mary. He spends 30 years simply serving as a carpenter yet giving glimpses of His divinity by teaching in the synagogue at times.

One day, He enters ministry and recruits 12 average men to become His disciples.

3 and 1/2 years later He suffered on the cross as the religious leaders chose to crucify Him for claiming to be God.

What does the Bible say about that night that Jesus was crucified, sacrificed?

Hebrews 9:24-28

²⁴ For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world.

But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him." ESV

Again, GOD is the one who initiates redemption

God sent Jesus, His only son, out of Heaven and into the world to become our sacrifice!

The God-man Jesus came to remove every barrier between Holy God and sinful man.

So how did this unfold with Jesus?

In the Gospels (**JESUS HEALING A BLIND MAN PICTURE UP**) We find Jesus spends 3 and 1/2 years healing people and preaching about the Kingdom of God, traveling town to town.

In Luke 22, we read about the events surrounding Jesus final days. We went through this in detail at our Passion Service which is online if you weren't able to come, you can go on YouTube or Facebook or our App to find that. It will bless you and bring you closer to Jesus. I know it did for me.

SUMMARIZE THE EVENTS

In Luke 22, we find out that Jesus held a dinner together with His disciples. **JESUS AT LAST SUPPER PICTURE** There, He served them bread and wine and told him it was a symbol of His body being broken for them. Some of them kinda understood but none of them fully grasped the moment. In fact, many of them were vying for position and arguing about who would be the greatest. That's when Jesus took a towel and a basin of water and washed their feet. Jesus is the suffering servant who came to show us

what true love looks like. He shows us that although God is all powerful is also completely gentle and loving - a servant!

PICTURE OF JUDAS KISSING JESUS

Later that night, Jesus would spend hours in prayer and agony dreading what was coming. He would then be betrayed by Judas, one of His followers and friends.

Then He was beaten and mocked beyond recognition scripture says. **Picture of him standing in circle of mockers.**

Then He was forced to carry His cross **PICTURE OF JESUS CARRYING CROSS**

This was incredible sacrifice Jesus made to show the incredible cost needed to be paid for OUR sin. It was 12 noon when they crucified him.

He hung on cross, **PICTURE OF HIS HANDS and NAIL** suffocating to death, feeling the rejection of His Father because of the wrath of all sin of all people was upon Him - ALL to show His love for us and to win us back!

Can you imagine being Peter? I know this is Easter and we're going to celebrate Jesus resurrection today for sure. But not before we remember the cross and the price He paid for us - for me - for you. I want you to watch this video and hear this song. It's from Peters perspective and I pray God will use it today to give us a deeper gratitude for the POWER of GRACE. Jesus gave Peter a second chance and He gives you and I a second chance. Take a listen.

VIDEO: NICK FREY: ONLY YOU

Jesus chose to suffer so we wouldn't have to. He was separate from the Father for a few hours so we wouldn't be separated from the Father for eternity!

Jesus gave Simon Peter a second chance to love and serve Him and gives you that second chance too! Jesus rose from the dead and displayed the power of grace by visiting Peter while he was fishing.

Peter had followed Jesus with passion and commitment but in their final moments together, Peter abandoned Jesus to save his own skin.

When Peter saw Jesus that day on the shore - His RISEN Lord **PICTURE OF JESUS WITH SUNLIGHT** - can you imagine the feelings of relief but also regret... YET JESUS FORGAVE HIM!

WHY? Jesus removes every barrier between you and God.
How does He remove every barrier? Here's what He did.

Let's go back to the Tabernacle - the First Covenant God made with His people. Remember that veil that was in Moses' Tabernacle?
WHEN JESUS BLOOD HIT THE GROUND THAT VEIL WAS TORN IN TWO!

The Veil that separated the Holy Place (where Gods presence was) was torn in two - sovereignly by God Himself! The barrier between God and man was no more! Jesus had made a way!

When Solomon built a stone, permeant temple, it followed the same patter and that temple also had a Holy Place and a Most Holy Place.

It too was separated by a veil with the same design - a 3 inch thick curtain - that separated sinful man from holy God.

A high pristine went in once a year to atone for the sins of all the people.

When Jesus' blood hit the ground, that veil was torn in two!

Mark 15:37-39

Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Can you imagine being a priest sacrificing a lamb at 3pm, the entire sky turning black, suddenly feeling an earthquake, looking over and seeing Jesus dying on the cross then suddenly the whole temple shook and the curtain in front of you splitting in two!?!
WOW! **HE IS RISEN!**

Heb 7:19 "... **a better hope** is introduced, through which we draw near to God."
YOU can have friendship with GOD!

YOU can have unity with the GOD of the UNIVERSE!

Jesus showed the power of grace, His power to redeem you, to purchase you back, by rising from the dead!

Jesus, the perfect priest offered Himself - His perfect blood - as the perfect sacrifice for you and me so we could be made perfect and He could become our brother and God could become our Father!

Hebrews 10:19-25

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest (JESUS) over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith

Jesus didn't have to go in and do it again a year later. Why? It's perfect. It's complete. You can't add another sacrifice to the perfect one that's already been given! If you are adding to the sacrifice - if you believe that your good works are needed for you to be saved then you are identifying with Nicodemus! You are counting in YOUR actions to make you righteous instead of Jesus! You're forgetting that Christ's good work wasn't complete.

Are you Nicodemus or Joseph of Aramthea?

Joseph was a religious elite - a pharisee - a friend and companion of Nicodemus. They had studied the Torah in the temple together. They knew the prophecies. God's Spirit was speaking to BOTH of them.

Nicodemus came to Jesus in the middle of the night so as to not be seen by the other religious leaders. He felt the Spirit of God when Jesus spoke. He saw the miraculous power. He KNEW the woman with 7 demons was healed by Jesus and that HE could NOT help the woman.

He knew there WAS something special about Jesus. But when Jesus told him that he had to be born again, he refused.

He refused to admit his need to change, to be forgiven, to be made new.

Is that you?

How will YOU respond to JESUS?

Joseph of Aramahea, a friend of Nicodemus, regretted not following Jesus. He found out that Jesus had died and asked for the body. Usually it would take 1 to 2 days for the criminal to suffocate and die.

This is why the Roman soldier comes to his boss and says "He's already dead and the rich man Joseph from Aramethea wants to bury him in his tomb..."

the Roman boss was surprised Jesus was dead.

Maybe contrast Joseph from Armethea had regrets for not following Jesus. He was part of the Sanhedrin we learn from other gospels. He was friends with Nicodemus.

His regret in not serving Jesus while he was alive obligated to serve Jesus now that he's dead. He's suddenly convinced Jesus WAS the Lord

What stopped Nicodemus from believing and giving his life to Jesus?

Fear of losing friends and status

Fear of change / admiring he was wrong and in need of a Savior

The peer pressure - HIS friends were crucifying JESUS. Yet HE wanted to follow Jesus

...

What stops you from believing and following Jesus ?

Friends Fear losing status ...? Admitting your sin and need of a Savior

The Bible tells us the Jesus' work is complete! That all you have to do is BELIEVE! ONCE you believe, He gives you a NEW HEART - a heart that desires to serve God and do the right thing. You become a CHILD OF GOD!

Maybe you're more like Simon Peter.

Peter's Story

Jesus found him fishing on a boat

Jesus believed in him and empowered him.

In Jesus lowest moment he denied Him.

Jesus returns to Peter after rising from the dead - once again while Peter's fishing to recruit him once again to be a fisher of men. The power of grace is in Jesus giving Peter another chance.

Just like you heard in that song. PETER was given a second chance. YOU and ME, we too are given a second chance! Aren't you thankful!?

**Jesus was obedient to the Father, in doing so, He becomes our brother!
We become a child of God!**

Our Heavenly Father asked Jesus "Son will you go down to earth, humble yourself and live among them, teach them about the Kingdom, then die on a cross for them suffering in their place?"

And Jesus said "YES" WOW!

Jesus was obedient and submissive to the Father; Jesus' death on the cross illustrates for us the amazing, eternal love of God. His love for you is greater than you'll ever comprehend!

Tell a story of someone's salvation / video? Testimony ...?

Bill List Video?

Jesus the God-man, removes every barrier between God and man! Jesus tore the veil. Jesus makes a way for YOU and ME to know GOD!

JESUS came into the heard of Bill List and changed his life forever!

Let's read bout that third day when Jesus ROSE from the DEAD! The Bible says in...

Luke 24:1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel.

⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

⁸ And they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles,

11 but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

12 But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

The very grave of Jesus burst open with the power of God!

JESUS made good on His promise! The prophet Isaiah said one day we'd have a new king to serve and lead in the line of King David. Jesus is that eternal King!

The prophet Jeremiah said that one day God would write His law upon our hearts, sending a perfect servant, a Messiah who would make all things new!

This is that moment when all the prophecies came together and collided in a climax of human history! GOD Himself opened the grave of His Son Jesus!

Jesus came as a suffering servant, a lamb.

He rose as a triumphant King, a Lion!

This is the POWER of GRACE!

God's rescue of His people has always been marked by the miraculous. Jesus rising from the dead is the miraculous hand of God once again, delivering people from their slavery - this time our slavery to sin and death.

This is the **POWER OF GRACE** title slide up

What the Apostle Paul makes clear over and over again in his letters to the church is the fact that Jesus wins the victory for us - that Jesus is not only victorious in his own right - his own fight against death but ours!

Jesus removed every separation between us and God. Jesus becomes our brother! Jesus restores us to relationship with a perfect loving Father God! Jesus' power over death becomes *your* power over death!

It's amazing to think that We did NOTHING to deserve being rescued from our sinful, selfish, destructive behavior. We did NOTHING to deserve being saved from our sinful nature. So why? Why would God the Father do that? Why would God sacrifice His son and allow him to be tortured like that - just to save you and me? Because He LOVES you that much!

Why? For God so loved YOU that He sent His only son to save you and me!

Imagine if you will, that you found out that every day on their way to school, your children were being offered heroin by a drug dealer. How would you feel?

That's how God feels towards us. He is a Father who wants to rescue us from the evil one. He wants to protect you from Satan - the one who wants to entice

you and destroy you - the one who wants to convince you to ignore God and live for yourself.

Satan wants you to ignore the cross, ignore your sin, ignore the deep down-gut feeling that there IS life after death - that there IS an after-life as some call it - that there IS something called Heaven and Hell.

God sent Jesus, His only Son, to be the perfect sacrifice offered on the cross, to pay the penalty for all our sins. In doing so, He tore the veil and removed the separation between us and our perfect loving Father God!

But look at Romans 6:6-12

"We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. Have you trusted in Jesus yet?

Jesus doesn't even remember your sins once you admit them and ask for forgiveness! He has already crucified those sins! He already has victory over them. Simply look to JESUS today! Trust in HIS ability to make you a new person! He'll write His law on your heart and you'll be BORN AGAIN just like God promised to Nicodemus.

Just like God did in the life of Peter, JESUS will give you another chance today to love and serve Him.

Jesus, the God-man, has removed every separation between you and God.

THE POWER OF GRACE is that He forgives and restores ALL who call upon His name.

Think of the man hanging next to Jesus. That day two men hung next to Jesus. One mocked Him. One asked to be forgiven - to be saved? Which one are you today?

Two religious leaders, Nicodemus and Joseph of Aramaetha, were given the same chance to admit their sin and their need for Jesus.

Nicodemus was too prideful and rejected Jesus.

Not so with Joseph. He ran and asked for Jesus body to be buried in his tomb! Why? He now believed!

Do YOU believe?

Can you imagine being Joseph of Arametha?

You finally lowered your pride and admiring your need for Jesus.

You ran to the courthouse to ask for Jesus' body to be placed in your tomb.

You finally have peace with God but maybe you weren't in those conversations with the disciples so you weren't expecting Jesus to rise from the dead.

Then Sunday comes, and you're told the unthinkable - JESUS has risen from the dead! WHAT!?!?! THIS man. THIS MESSIAH! Your new Lord and Savior is now ALIVE!? WOW!

RESPONSE

So there's three people you could identify with today...

Peter

Maybe you've followed Jesus but in the last few years, you did what Peter did, you lost faith, you gave up. But now, today, Jesus is calling to you, giving you a second chance to love and serve Him.

The Religious Good Guy - Nicodemus or Joseph

Maybe you've been in church your whole life but for you it's always been about following all the rules. Maybe you focus more on other people's shortcomings than your own. That's the religious leaders Jesus encountered. He died and rose again to save them too. That's Nicodemus. That's Joseph of Aramthea. One chose to reject Jesus. The other accepted Him as Lord.

Even the Apostle Paul tried to impress God. And he learned later in life that he couldn't impress God. The Word of God says ... "Our righteousness is like filthy rags" compared to God.

Maybe you are here today, needing Jesus to save you.

It's possible you were invited to church today or simply came because it's Easter. What if you were meant to be here? What if in God's sovereignty and grace, He enabled you to be here today to hear the Gospel and to give your life over to Jesus? If you feel God speaking to your heart then today is the day! Give your life to Jesus! Let Him forgive you of every sin, every failure and let JESUS remove the barrier between you and Father God!