

THE BLACKOUT AT CALVARY

Luke 23:44-48

Introduction:

1. In power blackouts, people do some strange things, and they did strange things around the cross.
2. We hear message about the cross but seldom about the blackout.
3. There are definite reasons why the sun ceased to shine.

I. (vv. 44-45) THE SUN WAS DARKENED.

1. The time was from 12 noon to 3 pm.
2. Power shortages often come from tripped breakers or blown fuses.
 - A. The Godhead had blown an expected necessary fuse.
 - B. The sun went out when the Son was darkened by our sin.
 - C. II Cor. 5:21 – *For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we may be made the righteousness of God in Him.*
 - D. John 8:12 – *Then spoke Jesus again unto them saying, I am the light of the world. He that follows Me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.*
 - E. John 12:36 – *While you have light, believe in the Light, that you may be the children of Light. These things spoke Jesus and departed and did hide Himself from them.*
3. Sin needs darkness to thrive (Jesus tasted death).
 - A. Hebrews 2:9 – *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*
 - B. John 3:19 – *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

II. (vv. 45) THE VEIL WAS DESTROYED.

1. This was the veil before the entrance to the Holy of Holies.
 - A. The High Priest went behind the veil once a year to atone for the sins of the people.
 - B. The atoning blood of Jesus made each believer a king and priest.
 - C. The destruction of the veil gave us access to the throne of God.
2. Jesus made the supreme sacrifice one and for all.

III. (v. 46) THE SPIRIT WAS DEPARTED.

1. Before surrender of His Spirit, Jesus spoke twice.

John 19:28-30 – *After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to His mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, It is finished: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost.*

 - A. First, *I thirst* (Physical).
 - B. Second, prior to the spirit's departure, *It is finished.*
2. *Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit.*

John 10:17-18 – *Therefore does My Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.*

 - A. This was voluntary power to lay down His life or take it up again.
 - B. If His life was not yielded up, He couldn't be the first fruits of them that slept.
 - C. He neither would have been what He told the Pharisees He was.
3. One day we are going to give up the ghost.
 - A. We have no choice in this.
 - B. Hebrews 10:31 – *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

IV. (vv. 47-48) THE CROWD WAS DISTURBED.

1. The centurion was a Roman officer in command of the guard.
 - A. He saw the power of God.
 - B. The crowd saw darkness, Jesus dying with no terror, graves opened, and heard Jesus pray.
2. (v. 48) The people saw and regretted.
3. Every time we sin willfully, we are crucifying Jesus afresh.

Conclusion:

Some say hell is not outer darkness. Our sins were black enough to darken the sun. Jesus went to the cross to forgive us.