



## **Jesus and the Final Wound**

Matthew 27:45-56

**When** was the last time you forgot an appointment? Remember thinking, *How could I have forgotten that?*

**Thankfully**, most appointments can be rescheduled. But there's one appointment none of us are going to miss. No one cancels it. No one reschedules it.

**That** appointment is death.

**Surveys** show that death is one of the deepest anxieties people carry. Death represents the one reality we cannot control, avoid, or fully understand. Even the Bible refers to death as an enemy.

**Studies** on death and religion show that simply being religious doesn't automatically remove the fear of death. In other words, it's not religion in general that gives peace—it's having a hope that is stronger than death.

**In Matthew 27**, Jesus dies. He died quietly, but what followed was anything but. What followed were signs that the death of Jesus changed the power of death forever. The temple curtain is torn in two. The earth is shaken, rocks split and tombs are opened.

Turn with me to **Matthew 27:45-56**.

**Jesus** dies. Jesus stepped into death so that we might step into His life. And because Jesus died:

**A New Way to God Is Opened (Verse 51a).**

“And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.”

This curtain symbolically separated the very presence of God.

Only the high priest could enter that space on the Day of Atonement.

The veil was enormous.

It was richly embroidered, thick, heavy. and extremely thick.

Matthew tells us the curtain was torn “from top to bottom.”

It’s as if God was tearing down that barrier that silently declared, “Keep out” and God Himself saying, “Come in. Come to Me.”

## **A New Life with God Is Secured (Verses 51b-53).**

Matthew records one of the most mysterious moments in the Gospels. Jesus dies. Tombs are opened; saints are resurrected after him. This event is a sign that Jesus’ death is the beginning of death’s defeat.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 2:15

Hebrews tells us that Christ delivered those who believe from the power of death and the fear of death (Hebrews 2:14-15).

### **A New People of God Are Gathered (Verses 54–56)**

The first confession after Jesus' death comes from a Gentile soldier.

Then Matthew names the faithful women at the cross.

Matthew intentionally pairs these two groups:  
A Gentile. Women.

These become the first visible witnesses of the crucified King.

This points to the new covenant community described in Galatians:

“There is neither Jew nor Greek... male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28

The cross not only does reconciles us to God—  
we become part of the new community  
gathered around Christ.

*What is your response to this Good News? The  
curtain has been torn, don't stand outside!  
Meditate on 1 John 5:13— bring to Jesus any  
fear of death. Get invested in the new  
community gathered around Jesus!*