

"The Hour of Darkness"

Sunday Morning Message by Ray Reynolds (February 2, 2014)

Introduction: When we take a quick glance at the world we can easily see ten (or more) problems, but what is the one that causes the other nine? The one that causes ALL the others is sin. Jesus dealt with the particular problem, the fountainhead of all others, on the cross. When the problem was addressed, Jesus declared, "It is finished." The question comes to us, "What was finished?" What happened on the cross that makes it such a big deal? In ***The Story*** we find the answer (**Matthew 27:32-56**). Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Assessment of the Crowd

- A. The Religious Leaders
- B. The Family & Friends
- C. The Roman Soldier

II. The Anxiety of the Cross

- A. God is Holy
- B. Sin is Ugly
- C. Reconciliation is Messy

III. The Attractiveness of the Compassion

- A. The Beauty of God's Love
- B. The Beauty of God's Choice
- C. The Beauty of God's Acceptance

Conclusion: Consider the story of Cecelia Crocker (Northwest Airlines flight 225). She has a story to tell doesn't she? So do we! God sent his Son, Jesus, who wrapped his arms around us, laid aside His own restraint, took the horrible fall with all its sin so that in the midst of the wreckage of this world, we might live. God is holy and God is love. Will you receive God's love? Will you immerse yourself into His holiness? Will you allow Jesus to absorb your sin? Will you allow His blood to cover you? Will you die with Him, be buried with Him in baptism, raise up with Him, and then walk anew with Him? Come to Jesus!