

Sunday, January 9th

Title: “Jesus the Temple of God”

Text: Matthew 26:57–68

Series: *The Gospel According to Matthew*

The Point:

#1. Jesus, the true Temple of God, gave Himself sacrificially (Matthew 26:57–68 & 27:32–44).

1. Jesus’ claim about the Temple is used to falsely convict Him to a death sentence.

In an unjust trial seeking false testimony, Jesus is accused of seeking to destroy the Temple of God and rebuild it in three days (Matthew 26:61).

2. Jesus’ claim about the Temple leads to those passing by to mock Him for being unable to get off the Cross.

While unjustly being crucified and hanging on a cross, Jesus mocked by those passing by for claiming to destroy the Temple of God and rebuild it in three days—if so, why wouldn’t He just come down from the Cross (Matthew 27:39–40).

Q: #1: So, wait, why would Jesus use a metaphor that would surely get Him killed—and if its more than mere metaphor, why not avoid the Cross?

A: #1: Because Jesus was saying the truth—He really is the Temple of God. And because Jesus orchestrated His telling of the truth precisely—so that He could be led to slaughter—as the Lamb Who had come to die to take sin’s wages for sinners who trust in Him!

#2. Jesus, the true Temple of God, gave Himself to bridge unholy humanity with our holy God (Matthew 27:45–66).

3. Yet, when Jesus dies, the temple curtain is split in half.

The curtain of the temple is torn in two after Jesus dies (Matthew 27:51).

4. Yet, when Jesus dies, the JRL fear Jesus’ prediction about rebuilding the temple in three days.

Indeed, Jesus does rise after 3 days and He, the True Temple, is rebuilt (Matthew 27:62–63).

APPLICATION:

Turn and trust in Jesus alone for salvation from the righteous condemnation we deserve.

1) Jesus is the True Temple, the Meeting Place between God and Man:

Recognize Jesus alone as the sole bridge between unholy humanity and the thrice holy God.

2) Jesus is the Sacrificial Lamb: Appreciate that no good would be possible apart from the horror Jesus faced on Good Friday.

3) Jesus is the Great High Priest: Rejoice in the access you can enjoy with God because Jesus' blood offers full atonement for our sin that had separated us from God.