

SERMON NOTES AND SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 9:6–14

6 When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. 7 But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. 8 The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning. 9 This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. 10 They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

11 But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. 12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. 13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. 14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Matthew 27:50–54

50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split 52 and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. 53 They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

1. Stop overemphasizing the externals and refocus on the internals.

2. The voices of guilt and shame say, "You cannot enter," but the voice of Jesus says, "Enter in freedom."

Two Questions:

1. In what ways have you sought to alleviate a guilty conscience? How are you encouraged today to find that solution only at the cross?

2. Whose voice are you going to listen to?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Please read the passage of Scripture together.

Pastor Luke shared three things the blood of Jesus does for us. Have you ever thought about it like that? What stands out to you from that?

How does this passage point to the fact that Jesus is greater? What is He greater than?

In Matthew 27 the curtain in the temple is torn. Now having read this passage, does that take on a different or more complex meaning? How so?

How can our group pray for you this week?