

CALVARY: A "Game Changer"

Matthew 27:35-54

After the tragic events of September 11, 2001, many things about the world changed—Security measures changed... the way we travel changed... Politics changed. You could say 9/11 was a real “game changer.”

The phrase “game changer” means: “A newly introduced event or factor that radically changes an existing situation or activity in a significant way.”

In that respect CALVARY WAS A REAL “GAME CHANGER.” No other single event has so drastically changed world than what happened at Mount Calvary 2,000 years ago. The crucifixion of Christ is the FOCAL POINT of all history. The world has never been the same since.

In 1986 I had the privilege to stand at the foot of Mt. Calvary in Jerusalem. As I stood there I got a “thrill from the hill” realizing it was there Jesus took care of my sins ONCE and for all!

➡ Notice 3 things that Calvary changed...

I. The ATONEMENT (Lev. 4:20; 17:11).

A. Meaning of “*atonement*”

1. To cover – The blood of animals covered sin but could not TAKE AWAY sins (Heb. 10:4, 10-14). Jesus’ blood not only covers our sins, but also REMOVES them (Heb. 9:22-26).
2. “at-one-ment,” i.e., the state of being “at one with” (reconciled). Through Christ’s death on Calvary I can be “at one” with God.
 - I am no longer at enmity with God. We are now reconciled.
 - I am no longer alienated from God. I am now a fellow-citizen of the household of God / joint-heir with Christ!
 - I am no longer afar off. I’ve been made nigh by the atoning blood of Christ.
 - You are not “at one” with God until you’ve received the atonement!

B. “Atonement” is mentioned 81 times in the O.T. and only one time in the N.T. (Rom. 5:11). Why? Because atonement was an on-going event in the O.T. But in the N.T. Christ was offered up ONCE FOR ALL—He made the final atonement. He is the atonement, therefore no more blood has to be shed. No more bulls; turtle-doves; goats, lambs!

When Jesus cried, “*It is finished*” it was over! Our sin debt was “paid in full!” The atonement for sin was finished and the O.T. sacrificing of animals to cover sins was done!

- I’m glad I’m living on this side of Calvary.
- I don’t have to bring an animal to a specified place every year to atone for my sins.

CALVARY COVERS IT ALL

Far dearer than all that this world can impart
 Was the message that came to my heart;
 How that Jesus alone, for my sins did atone,
 And Calvary covers it all!

Calvary covers it all,
 My past with its sin and shame
 My guilt and despair
 Jesus took on Him there.
 Yes, Calvary covers it all!

II. The AUTHORITY (Rev. 1:18 - *I am he that liveth, and was dead;*

2. When Adam sinned, he surrendered his authority to Satan. Adam gave up his authority for a bite of fruit. He sold out cheap!
- B. Jesus stripped Satan of his authority at Calvary (Col. 2:14-15). Jesus set us free from the dominion of sin (Romans 6:14— *For sin shall not have dominion over you...*)
- Satan has power, but he has no authority over a Christian. The only access Satan has to your life is the access you allow him to have by yielding to his temptations (Eph. 4:27).

III. The **ACCESSIBILITY** (Mt. 27:50-51).

- The veil—The veil was 60 feet long, 30 feet wide, and about 4 inches thick.¹ I.M. Haldeman points out, “two pairs of oxen attached to either side and driven in opposite directions could not tear it asunder.”²
 - **Torn top to bottom.** God did it! It was a miracle.
- A. No more O.T. priesthood. Now, every Christian is a “priest.” Priesthood of believers.
1. There is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (1 Tim. 2:5).
 - I don’t have to hunt for a priest to have him pray for me. I can talk directly to God through my a Great High Priest – the Lord Jesus Christ.
 2. Where there were signs saying “KEEP OUT” now is a WELCOME MAT!
 - *Having therefore, brethren, boldness [authority] to enter into the holiest [accessibility] by the blood of Jesus [atone-ment],* (Heb. 10:19)
- B. **Veil could not be repaired.**

SUMMARY: The greatest change Calvary makes is the change in a person’s life (Mt. 27:54).

*The Tabernacle,
The Tabernacle Priesthood and Offerings,*

1. It changes a person's **DESTINY**. My destiny is changed from hell to heaven.
2. It changes a person's **DESIRES** (2 Cor. 5:15- *And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.*) Desire for the Bible! Desire for Church! Desire to serve the Lord!
3. It changes a person's **DIRECTION**. No longer following the way of the world, but following after Christ. I don't talk the way I used to talk... I don't go to the places I used to go... I drink the things I used to drink... I don't have the same kind of friends I used to have.

THANKS TO CALVARY!

Today, I went down to the place where I used to go
 Today, I saw the same old crowd I knew before
 And when they asked me what had happened, I tried to tell them,
 Thanks to Calvary, I don't come here anymore.

Thanks to Calvary, I am not the man I used to be
 Thanks to Calvary, things are different than before.
 And as the tears ran down my face I tried to tell them,
 Thanks to Calvary, I don't come here anymore.

All my **past**... all my **sin**... all my **mistakes**... all my **going astray**... all my **ungodliness**... all my **sorrows**... all my **stubbornness**—ALL MY EVERYTHING has been forgiven, because of Calvary!

The cross is the heart... the nucleus... the core of my faith. Take the cross away, and I have nothing.

The Old Rugged Cross made the difference for me!

And the old rugged cross made the difference,
 In a life bound for heartache and defeat;
 I will praise Him forever and ever,
 For the Cross made the difference for me.

- How about you? Has the cross made a difference for you? What kind of difference has Calvary made in the way you live?

- Have you been saved from sin – from an eternity in hell because of the cross? If not, why not let the cross make a difference for you today—right now?

Why not come this morning and let the cross make a difference for you.