



THE BIG STORY

CHAPTER 21/25

The Cross:
The Rescue

Today's Chapter...

After three years of ministry, the religious leaders of the day had had enough with Jesus. They captured and lied about Jesus and He was sentenced to death...



Today's Scripture:

Matthew 27:45-54

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"



The Story: The Cross

- Jesus taught us how to live life the way God intended us to live it. Jesus established His kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven. However, the most important thing Jesus did was die for our sins.**
- Throughout this entire series, we've seen how sin has, again and again, captured and enslaved all of us.**
- When Jesus died, He conquered sin once and for all. The “loud voice” he cried out with was a battle cry of victory.**
- What Jesus did was so apparent to the onlookers, that even the pagan soldiers knew He was God and worshiped Him.**

Why it Matters in the Big Story

- Sin doesn't just separate us from God, it enslaves us; enslaves our future, our desires, and our actions.**
- Jesus' death put sin to death as well. He took on all the consequences and powers of sin when He died upon the cross.**
- When we trust in Jesus, we are rescued from sin forever!**



GOD IS...

God is our ransom. That means that God gave Himself up to free us from sin. Even though we were the ones that brought sin into the world, God still offered Himself up to free us!

Reflection Questions

1. What does sin do to us?

It enslaves us.

2. What did Jesus do on the cross?

Rescued us from our sin!

3. What does it mean that God is our ransom?

It means that God gave Himself up to free us from sin!

Challenge Question: How will you turn away from sin this week?