



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

1, 2 Thessalonians Sermon Series

Supports Session 7: Risen!

Sermon Title: A Truly Special Day!

Passage: Matthew 27:51-54

---

### **Connection to Matthew 28:1-10,16-20**

Jesus came to provide salvation for all who believe through His death on the cross.

### **Introduction/Opening**

Resurrection Sunday is a special day in the life of the Christian. This day is the hope of all believers as we celebrate the promise of an empty tomb and a new life. This is the day that God has chosen to allow His Son to redeem humanity, so that any who believe in Him will have eternal life.

Today, we look at the greatest story ever told. The story that changes lives forever. The story of Jesus.

### **Outline**

1. Jesus came to redeem us from our sins (vv. 51-54)
  - a. The significance of the temple.
    - i. The temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom, the earth shook, and the dead were raised. Very strange sight here. But what was going on?
      1. The temple was part of the old covenant. The old covenant, or the covenant of Moses (mosaic covenant) which involved the law, was what Paul called in Galatians 3:24 a guardian or a caretaker until Jesus came.
      2. This meant that the new covenant had come. The temple was no longer needed. The covenant of Jesus, sealed by His blood, extended the invitation for all people (not just the Jews) to receive eternal life by placing their faith in Christ.
      3. The dead being raised is a picture of what will happen in the future for all believers. See 1 Corinthians 15:20-22; Revelation 20:4-5,11-13
    - ii. So why was the tearing of the curtain important? It was important because the offer of the new covenant is now available to all who would hear and believe. Even more, the events taking place were not lost on the Centurion and his men, who proclaimed to all who would hear that truly Jesus was the Son of God.

- b. The significance of the cross.
  - i. The problem: our world is broken, and so are we (Rom. 3:23; 6:23).
  - ii. The solution: Jesus died for our sins.
    - 1. See John 19:30; 1 Corinthians 15:1-3,20-22; 1 John 2:2.
    - 2. His substitutionary death on the cross made a way for our redemption from sin.
- 2. Jesus made the way to eternal life (Rom. 10:9-13).
  - a. Jesus's death
    - i. His death was planned long before the world was formed and provided the way for eternal life (Eph. 1:3-9).
    - ii. It was a real, physical death and a real, physical burial.
  - b. Jesus's resurrection
    - i. It was a real, physical resurrection.
    - ii. He was the first fruits of the resurrection. The first for His people to follow one day (Acts 26:23; Eph. 1:11-14; Col. 1:18).
  - c. The only response: faith alone in Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9-13).

## Conclusion

Today is a special day, indeed. And while Christians celebrate this day as the day of hope, be sure to take that first step. Receive Jesus, for today can be the first day of a new life in Christ.

---

*Fran Trascritti is a husband, father, grandfather, but most of all, a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. He has served in ministry for over twenty-seven years, and currently serves as the Administrative Director of the Growth Team at the Illinois Baptist State Association. He graduated from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (MDiv, PhD). He and his wife, Teresa, live in Springfield, Illinois.*

*All Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible, Copyright 2020 by Holman Bible Publishers.*