

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #94

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 23:44-49

Sermon Date: Jul 22, 2007

Something More Was Going On

Those three hours must have felt like forever. Crucifixions typically took take days and days, yet Jesus seemed to have a level of control over his own death. He yielded his spirit in his own time and by the power of his voice.

“It is finished.”

“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”

These words marked the seeming culmination of the battle between Jesus and the religious leaders of his day. Or so the leaders thought. In this week's study passage, Jesus takes his last breath on the cross – what one might expect would be the final chapter of a crucified man's story. But right away we see signs that something more is going on. It's seen in the darkness, the earthquakes, the curious reactions of the Roman centurion and the spectators. They seem to know that something extraordinary has just happened. Do you?

Have you encountered the “something more” that went on after Jesus died? It can save your life ... if you believe it. So study it, pray about it, and let it transform your life.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's Bible passage in the two translations shown below and on the next page, and use the chart beside them to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>New International Version (NIV)</p> <p>⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.</p> <p>⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.</p> <p>⁴⁷ The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."</p> <p>⁴⁸ When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. ⁴⁹ But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>New Living Translation (NLT)</p> <p>⁴⁴ By this time it was noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. ⁴⁵ The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the thick veil hanging in the Temple was torn apart. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" And with those words he breathed his last.</p> <p>⁴⁷ When the captain of the Roman soldiers handling the executions saw what had happened, he praised God and said, "Surely this man was innocent." ⁴⁸ And when the crowd that came to see the crucifixion saw all that had happened, they went home in deep sorrow. ⁴⁹ But Jesus' friends, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Take a Closer Look:

4. What are some symbolic meanings of the darkness that occurred while Jesus was on the cross? The following sets of verses may help:

- Job 18:5, Mt 8:12, 2 Pet 2:17
- Jn 1:4-5,9, 8:12
- Jn 12:20-36

5. Did the sun really stop shining? Is there a precedent for this? (Explore Gen 1:5, 1:14-19, Ex 10:21-22, Jos 10:12-14, Rev 21:23) How does the 3-hour darkness which preceded Christ's death relate to the 9th plague of darkness (Ex 10:21-22) which preceded the 10th plague of the slaying of the firstborn of Egypt (Exo 12:12-13)?

6. What is the significance of the veil (or curtain) being torn in two? The following verses may help: Ex 26:31-33, Eph 2:14-16, Heb 9:11-12, 10:19-22.

7. What do you notice about or learn from the responses of the various witnesses of Jesus' death recorded in Luke 23:47-49?

- a. The Centurion (v 47)
- b. Those gathered to watch the executions (v 48)
- c. Those who knew Jesus, including the women (v 49)

8. According to Luke 23:44-49, did Jesus really die? Why is this significant? (Recall the gospel, especially Rom 5:8, 1 Pet 3:18)

9. How does this passage relate to your life and your Christian walk these days? In response to that, what will you do or endeavor to be more like this week?

10. From the cross, Jesus spoke the same words as Psalm 31:5. Perhaps a fitting way to close your time of study is to read and pray through all of Psalm 31, which relates so closely to the cross.

Psalm 31

¹ In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. ² Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me. ³ Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me. ⁴ Free me from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge. ⁵ **Into your hands I commit my spirit;** redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth. ⁶ I hate those who cling to worthless idols; I trust in the LORD. ⁷ I will be glad and rejoice in your love, for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul. ⁸ You have not handed me over to the enemy but have set my feet in a spacious place. ⁹ Be merciful to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and my body with grief. ¹⁰ My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak. ¹¹ Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors; I am a dread to my friends – those who see me on the street flee from me. ¹² I am forgotten by them as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery. ¹³ For I hear the slander of many; there is terror on every side; they conspire against me and plot to take my life. ¹⁴ But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.” ¹⁵ My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. ¹⁶ Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love. ¹⁷ Let me not be put to shame, O LORD, for I have cried out to you; but let the wicked be put to shame and lie silent in the grave. ¹⁸ Let their lying lips be silenced, for with pride and contempt they speak arrogantly against the righteous. ¹⁹ How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you. ²⁰ In the shelter of your presence you hide them from the intrigues of men; in your dwelling you keep them safe from accusing tongues. ²¹ Praise be to the LORD, for he showed his wonderful love to me when I was in a besieged city. ²² In my alarm I said, “I am cut off from your sight!” Yet you heard my cry for mercy when I called to you for help. ²³ Love the LORD, all his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full. ²⁴ Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.

Amen.