

Easter 2011
“The Big One”

At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”

Matthew 27:45-46 (NLT)

Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart.

Matthew 27:50-51 (NLT)

1. The Big One rocks your world.

Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb.

Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.”

Matthew 28:1-7 (NLT)

2. The Big One destroyed sin.

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners

have. And in that body God declared an end to sin’s control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

Romans 8:1-3 (NLT)

3. The Big One changes the landscape.

For Moses writes that the law’s way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands.

Romans 10:5 (NLT)

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 (NLT)

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2 Corinthians 5:15-17 (NLT)

SO WHAT?

Drop, Cover, & Hold On.

The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel’s message. And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him.

Matthew 28:8-9 (NLT)

So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

Ephesians 1:6-7 (NLT)

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33 (NLT)

Notes

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Have you ever been in an earthquake or natural disaster?
How did it make you feel?
2. Have you ever had a landmark event in your life that changed everything? What was it? How did it change everything?
3. When was your moment of Salvation? How did you feel about it when you made that decision? If you haven't made that decision what is keeping you from making it? Has that feeling faded since? Why?
4. Read **Hebrews 9:1-14**. Because of the resurrection all people can approach God Because of Christ's sacrifice for our sins. What are some ways people try to get right with God?
5. Read **1 Corinthians 15:1-20**. Jesus resurrection is the key to the Christian faith. Why?
6. If the resurrection changes the landscape forever, how has salvation changed you? How do you need to continue changing?