

## I HAVE ACCESS

**April 5, 2009 PALM SUNDAY**

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**Matthew 27:45-53; Hebrews 10:19-25**

Over the years, we have taken many of the rich privileges that we have in Christ for granted. We express our gratitude to Him for what He has done for us. However, sometimes we don't fully take advantage of the privileges He has given to us for being His. Prayer is communication with the omniscient God who already knows what we need and yet stops to hear our cry. Prayer is communion and friendship with God. We can walk and talk with Him. Prayer is access to God. One would think we would take advantage of an opportunity of being in the presence of God. But, we take His presence for granted. In our minds, He is just a good friend that we can talk to two or three days a week or month. Then, we run back to Him when we are in trouble.

There was a time when we didn't have immediate access to God. We had to go through a "middle man." In **Exodus 19**, Moses delivered God's messages to the people. The people couldn't go up on the mountain to witness the presence of God. Only Moses and Aaron could meet with God. Not even designated representatives could get in God's face. There was no way they could get too familiar with God. Even when the tabernacle was established, only the priests could go into the tabernacle and make sacrifices on the behalf of the people. Only the high priest could go beyond the veil. How would you feel if you could only drive to the church and not be able to go inside? If you have no access to God, how do you share your heart with God? If you can't get in His presence, how do you know He cares? How do you get joy?

In the text, it makes clear that we are the apple of God's eye. God made man in His own image and breathed in us the breath of life. Separation was not God's idea. It was ours. His relationship with humanity was cool until we sinned. Sin is disobedience. It is not fulfilling God's expectations for you. We have expectations for people. When those expectations aren't met, it interrupts our relationships with those people. It's no different with God? Sin affects our relationship with God. Sin has consequences. **Romans 6:23** Sin made it impossible for God to allow us into His presence. Sin made us guilty before God. Guilt is debt. Debt is something that one can demand from another. As humans, we are guilty as charged. As long as the debt remained and the guilt not mediated, it was impossible for God to allow man into His presence. We didn't have direct access to God.

In the text, the priests would make sacrifices with animals' blood to make atonement for the sins of the people. God established atonement to satisfy the demands of the law and remove the guilt of sin. The blood was a covenant and a covering so that when the sinner entered the presence of God He would not see the committed and confessed sin anymore. The blood of the animals was just a representation of the blood of Jesus that would be shed for us. **Hebrews 7:26** God placed Himself in real fellowship with us. Jesus' blood took away your sin. You need to understand what God did for you. **John 3:16** A man gave his life for you. When Jesus shed his blood God gave us access. **Psalms**

**103:10, Isaiah 38:17** People might accuse you and you can admit to the guilt but Jesus paid it all. He covered us and gave us access.

In **Matthew 27**, the moment Jesus died for us God ripped the veil and invited us to come in. God made a way for us to get up close and personal with Him. God made a way for us to pray to Him. We dare not take for granted that now we can pray and get in God's presence. We now have access. When you enter the presence of God, you have the promise that nothing shall be able to separate you from the love of Jesus. Even when you sin, you can confess your sin and you are still able to go to God. When you go to Him and confess, God is able to cleanse you from all unrighteousness. You ought to draw nearer to God. You always make excuses of why you can't come to God and/or pray. You wonder where God is when you need Him. He didn't move; you did. We can't treat God like some distant lover. We can't keep coming and going in a heated rush. You run to God when you are in trouble but when everything becomes okay you can't be found. God paid to keep you so that you could be in relationship with Him. He doesn't need us. We need Him. Now is not the time to just play it cool. Since God has made a way, draw nearer to Him with a sincere heart.

God is everything you need. Quit professing with your lips what your lifestyle doesn't support. You have to hold unswervingly. If God said He would keep you, He will keep you. You have to walk by faith and not by sight. We have to encourage one another in the Lord and set an example. Encourage each other to stay in church. You need your church family. Your church family needs you. We have to pray for one another and encourage one another. Jesus gave His life to develop the intimate fellowship we have so that we can worship, pray, and praise.

Peace

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