

## Lent Course 2020 from Luke's Gospel

### Luke 23:44-53

#### Three Kinds of Darkness

These events are right at the centre of the Bible, at the centre of human history, and at the centre of the Christian faith. This is God's plan, and everything from this moment on is transformed by it. From this point on, nothing is the same in the world or in the lives of God's people.

When Jesus was born, it was daylight at midnight, as the angels lit up the sky with their praises. As he approached death, it was midnight at midday, as black darkness descended on the land. What does darkness in the middle of the day mean?

It means human evil. According to the Bible, shameful, wicked deeds take place under cover of darkness. You can do dreadful things in the dark without being found out. The murder of the Messiah is cloaked in darkness.

It means spiritual rebellion. Spiritual forces work under cover of darkness. As Paul in Ephesians writes, the enemies of God are the powers of this dark world. In a sense, this darkness denotes the momentary triumph of evil.

It means God's judgment. It was, for example, one of the plagues of Egypt.

And this darkness has fallen on Jesus, God's own Son. For the first, last, and only time in eternity, God the Father and God the Son were not in perfect relationship. That relationship is fractured. It was as if God drew a vast curtain over the cross, so that no outsider could see or hear the horror of what was happening. On the cross, Jesus experienced darkness so that we might never know a minute of it.

It is our darkness, our shame, our grief, because it is our sin that is the problem.