

# All That Jesus Taught Bible Study - Part 78

by Zac Poonen

---

*The sermon explores the significance of the veil in the Old Testament tabernacle and its connection to man's self-will, highlighting the importance of obedience to God's word and the new and living way that has been inaugurated for us through Jesus Christ.*

**Duration:** 25:05

**Scripture:** Isaiah 53:9, Matthew 7:24, Matthew 27:65-66, John 14:15, John 14:21, Romans 8:28, Romans 15:3, 1 Corinthians 6:19, Hebrews 10:19

**Topics:** "Holy Spirit", "Self Denial"

---

## Description

This sermon delves into the significance of the torn veil in the temple when Jesus died, symbolizing the opening of the way into God's presence. It explores the concept of man as a tabernacle of God with three parts - body, soul, and spirit, emphasizing the need to deny self-will to allow the Holy Spirit to dwell within. The torn veil represents the tearing of Jesus' self-will, paving the way for believers to follow the new and living way of denying self and obeying God's will. Obedience to God's commandments and love for others are highlighted as essential aspects of proving love for Christ.

---

## Transcript

We turn once again to Matthew's Gospel chapter 27 to continue our study in all that Jesus taught. We've been looking at the Gospel of Matthew to see how to obey that last verse in the Gospel where he told us to teach others to observe all that I commanded you. We need to see all that he commanded us by his life, by his words, by the circumstances he took the disciples through and the events mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew.

We want to look, we were looking at the cross and how Jesus cried out finally it is finished and we were looking at verse 51 where it says that the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom as described in the other Gospels as well. And what was the significance of this? One, as I mentioned in our last session, the way into the Most Holy was open. You know this is what it says in the book of Hebrews that the veil indicated in the Old Testament that the way into the holiest was not open.

In Hebrews in chapter 9 it says there was a veil, verse 8, the Holy Spirit signifying this that the way into the Most Holy Place has not yet been opened while that outer tabernacle was standing. That was his significance of that veil. But when that veil was rent, the way into God's presence was open.

You know in the Old Testament the fire of God dwelt upon the Most Holy Place. The Old Testament tabernacle, if you're not familiar with it, had three parts. The outer court which was open to everybody to see and a covered tent which had two parts, the Holy Place, Most Holy Place.

Between the two was this thick veil. The high priest was allowed to go in there once a year on the Day of Atonement. Other than that it was completely blocked.

The mercy seat was in there and God dwelt in the Most Holy Place. He would say I speak from between the cherubs in the mercy seat and it was indicating that there was something blocking man from coming into God's presence and nobody in the Old Testament could understand it. What was it? What did this veil symbolize? You know everything in the Old Testament symbolized something.

The Sabbath spoke of the inner rest, the circumcision spoke of the cutting off of confidence in the flesh, the blood of the Lamb spoke of the blood of Jesus Christ, the pillar of cloud symbolized the Holy Spirit. Pharaoh is a picture of Satan and Egypt is a picture of the world and going through the Red Sea is a picture of baptism. The land of Canaan is a picture of the life of victory.

The Giants are a picture of the lusts in the flesh that can be defeated. Going through Jordan is a picture of going through the way of the cross and being crucified and taking that position permanently, etc. Everything has got a meaning.

The fire resting upon the tabernacle is a picture of the glory of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. So what did the veil symbolize? It's very important to understand that because when that was rent something happened. So the tabernacle was also a picture of man because man is called the tabernacle of God.

It says in John 1 14 the literal translation as it says in my margin is the word became flesh and tabernacled in our midst. That means dwelt like a tabernacle in our midst. 1 Thessalonians 5 23 says man has also got three parts just like the tabernacle body soul and spirit.

One part is visible like the outer court the body. Two parts are covered like the holy place the most holy place soul and spirit and between soul and spirit is this thick veil which prevents the Holy Spirit from coming and dwelling in man's spirit. See in the Old Testament the Holy Spirit could not dwell in anybody's heart or spirit.

So there are two messages that come through from this thick veil. One is that man cannot go into God's presence because of something blocking him and God cannot come into man's spirit because something is blocking him and that was removed when Christ died and said it is finished. It's very important for us to understand this because there's something here that Jesus taught us through this which those disciples couldn't understand then.

You remember Jesus said in John 16 there are many more things I want to say to you but you can't understand them now. You can't bear them now because they couldn't understand because they didn't have the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit came suddenly their eyes were opened and then they could read it says in 2nd Corinthians 3 that there's a veil over the scriptures and long as long as you're under the law many things in the scriptures you can't see you can't understand but it says when you turn to the Lord the Spirit the veil is taken away.

You turn to the Holy Spirit to explain the meaning of that and he explains it to you. So we turn to the Holy Spirit to understand what is the meaning of this veil and all we have to do is compare scripture with

scripture. If you turn to Hebrews in chapter 11 we read there that Hebrews 10 sorry since therefore brethren Hebrews 10 19 we have confidence to enter it's referring to the most holy place by the blood of Jesus the Old Testament priest who take a little blood of a lamb that was slain into the holy place in the day of atonement we have boldness to enter immediate presence of God by the blood of Jesus by a new and living way which he has inaugurated for us through his veil through the veil that is his flesh so there is a way into the most holy place which has been inaugurated.

Inaugurated means Jesus like you know when a road is inaugurated that's just that's not for us to admire it's for us to use when a road is inaugurated. A way has been inaugurated means that's for us to use and that way was inaugurated when the veil was rent and that veil it says is his flesh.

Now the word flesh is used in a number of ways in the New Testament it's referring to meat at times just plain meat at other times it's referring to the corrupt sinful flesh we have in our sinful flesh and there is nothing good and it says that Jesus came in the likeness of sinful flesh but not in sinful flesh because there was no sin in him at all he was the angel said that holy thing which is going to be born is called the Son of God so there was no sin or sinful flesh in Jesus but he did have a flesh it says here his flesh in fact John says if you don't confess that Jesus came in the flesh it's the Antichrist it's not talking about Jesus coming in a body it's about Jesus coming in the flesh that's the word that's always used one John two John three John he always uses that Jesus came

in the flesh the secret of godliness 1 Timothy 3:16 that Christ came in the flesh so we need to understand what is this meaning of flesh in Galatians 5 we get a little understanding the flesh fights against the spirit the spirit fights against the flesh there's a conflict these are in opposition to one another so that you don't do the things that you please the flesh is what makes us do what we want to do we get that from Galatians 5:17 and the spirit opposes that tells us not to do what we want to do but we should do what we should do what God wants us to do now the question is did Jesus have this conflict in his life certainly in Gethsemane we know he said father not my will not what I want to do but what do you want me to do not what pleases me but what pleases you so that was the flesh

in Jesus this thing which was we call my will turn to John 6:38 and you find what I call the one-line autobiography of Jesus Christ the one-line description of his entire 33 and a half years on earth John 6:38 I have come from heaven not to do my will or in other words to deny my flesh my flesh is my will and I deny that I say no to that and I spend my entire life doing the will of him who sent me the father the spirit put the flesh to death in Jesus in other words he put this thing called my will to death in Jesus there was no sin there but this thing called my will Jesus had throughout his life and he had to deny it not to do my own will means he denied his own will he denied his flesh that is the other meaning of flesh in Jesus and that is symbolized by the veil so what was torn in

the 33 years half years of Jesus life his will his self-will was torn he never did it and at the end of his life he said it's finished that means I've encountered every possible temptation that a man can face to do my own will and I never did it the whole range of temptation top to bottom was done and by the help of the Holy Spirit he never did it and so the veil could be torn the new and living way through the veil that is his flesh or that is his self-will was denied torn and he only did the father's will and now that is a way that has been inaugurated for us that we can go that way what is that way the way of denying our own flesh today denying self if any man will come after me let him deny himself that means Jesus denied himself to otherwise how can he say follow me I've got to do

that because he did it then I can follow him so you see all these scriptures fit in that is what we call the way of the cross the new and living way and it's a way even though the way is like an object we think it's a door it's not a door it's a way it's a way it's called a new and living way it's living because you go that way you always live in life it's new in the sense that it's always fresh every day there's something fresh something new and it's living because if I go if I die with him I live with him it is a living way and it leads me right into God's presence and so we see the thing that hindered man from being able to come into God's presence is his own self-will when Adam and Eve chose to do their own will they went away from God Jesus came and went the opposite way he never

did his own will it says in Romans 15 verse 3 that Christ never pleased himself that was how the veil was rent now we have a choice God doesn't force anybody but we have a choice if you want to dwell in the immediate presence of God in the most holy place you can live there 24 hours a day seven days a week if you go through this new and living way that is the meaning of the rent veil in Matthew 27 verse 51 and the way is open for us all and this is how God can dwell in our spirit too because as I said in the tabernacle the innermost part of the tabernacle the most holy places where God dwells and that's in our spirit God doesn't dwell in our body in our mind but in our spirit when you say God dwells in the tabernacle it was in the most holy place and when we say this body is the temple of

the Holy Spirit the Holy Spirit dwells in the most holy place the spirit of man but between soul and spirit is this thing called my will and if I allow God to break down my will he can make me a spiritual person merely understanding truth in my mind does not make me spiritual getting excited in my emotions does not make me spiritual it's when I yield my will to that word that I can become spiritual like Jesus said a man can understand what I say but if he doesn't do it his house is still on sand but when he does it that means he denies his will and does what God says then his house goes on rock and that rock is Christ's obedience to Christ so this is the way that God wants every one of his children to walk this new and living way in the story of the parable that Jesus spoke about the

wise man and the foolish man in Matthew chapter 7 at the end of the Sermon on the Mount he said these words and let me apply it to what I just said everyone who hears these words of mine you see in our personality our soul consists of our mind emotions and will and the will is the door to the spirit the veil so mind emotion and will is my soul in my mind if I understand God's Word in my emotions if I'm stirred by God's Word God's Word still does not penetrate my spirit till I yield my will so it says here one who hears these words and does them that means he understands it maybe he's excited about it but he does more he does them then he's built on the rock but if he's only understands it verse 28 26 and he's excited about it but does not obey it he's still on sand sand is mind and

emotions but the God's Word must go through the sand till it hits rock then we are unshakable the same thing Jesus said earlier in Matthew 7 verse 21 not everyone who says to me Lord Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven but he who does the will of my father what does that mean when a man says Lord that means his mind is right he believes that Jesus Christ is Lord when he says Lord Lord he's excited his emotions are right but he still doesn't enter the kingdom it's when he yields his will Lord is not enough Lord Lord is not enough obedience when the will is broken God can dwell in his spirit it's the same thing everywhere you find it being taught consistently in scripture that is the lack of yieldedness of our will that prevents us from being spiritual and that's why you see for you're

very often in Christendom two groups of people who both say they are separated from all the dead denomination churches and one group concentrates on studying the scriptures if you go to their

assemblies they're always studying scripture teaching scripture and they have a tremendous knowledge of scripture it's the mind others here's another group that reacts against that and saying that's just dead academic study we want some excitement and they have very emotional songs and drums and beats and clapping and yelling and all types of jumping like the prophets of Baal and emotion they think that's spirituality it's not this is mind that's emotion where's the church that says beyond emotion and will you have to deny yourself and take up the cross and die then you'll build on the rock that's

the church you should be a part of we're not against our intellectual understanding I believe in studying the scriptures that's why we are having this Bible study I believe in being excited about the scriptures and stirring people emotionally I hope you're stirred emotionally as you gone through these studies but ultimately our aim is to get you to deny your will and do the will of God otherwise we'll never become spiritual that is the whole purpose of this rent veil that is the place into which God wants to bring us where Christ is Lord and when you say Christ is Lord is not in word it's not just an emotion but in obedience to his word and especially you know those that word about obedience in relation to the wise man was spoken at the end of the Sermon on the Mount whoever hears these

words of mine and does them so I would encourage you if you're serious about following all that you've heard in this study think of what Jesus said to build on the rock Matthew 7:24 if you hear these words of mine and do them you'll build on the rock that is the narrow way at the end of the Sermon on the Mount he says enter through the narrow gate and then a narrow way that is the new and living way through the veil that is the narrow way and the narrow gate and it relates to everything I have just said so if you want if you're serious about it I would encourage you to read Matthew 5:6 & 7 go through it verse by verse and see if you've obeyed it we went through it some time ago in this study verse by verse see if you're obeying it all that Jesus taught if you do it your life will be

unshakable your family will be unshakable your church will be unshakable it's that life of obedience to God's Word that is not being taught sufficiently in Christendom today it is the mark of our love for Christ how do you prove your love for Christ is it by going out as a missionary is it by sacrifice and offering no this is says in Hebrews 10:5 sacrifice and offering he does not desire but he wants your body he wants you to obey him with your eyes and tongue and hands that's how he wants obedience and Jesus said if you love me keep my commandments a lot of people's understanding of love is just emotional excitement like cinema type of love between a boy and a girl they think love for Jesus is like that that's not love for Jesus Jesus said love for me is proved by your obedience John 14

15 if you love me keep my commandments there's no other way to prove our love for him and you will love your brother if you can't love a brother whom you see you can't love God who's invisible so these are the two ways in which I prove my love for God one by keeping his commandments and the other by loving a brother whom I can see a lot of brothers whom we see may not be very lovable but if you can't love them you can't love God so the Christian life is very practical we come back to Matthew chapter 27 we were looking at this the cross we read here in verse 57 when it was evening Matthew 27:57 there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus but in secret because he was in the council and they were not followers of Jesus but there was this

man in the council who was a secret disciple like Nicodemus and this man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus and Pilate ordered it to be given over to him see this is how God has some witnesses in high places to help us if Peter had gone to Pilate's house the fisherman Peter the security guards would have thrown him out of the gate and he couldn't have got anywhere near but there was this influential man

called Joseph God had him there and God had him there to help the body of Jesus to be taken down and it's the same today God has some very influential people who are willing to help the body of Christ today in high places thank God for them they are maybe secret disciples they're not called to go out and plant churches and be apostles like Peter but they are useful at certain

times to help the body of Christ and it says here that Joseph took the body he himself came took the body wrapped it up in a clean linen cloth and laid it out in his own new tomb which he had hewn in the rock and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away so like it was prophesied in Isaiah 53 also is his death and his burial were with criminals on the cross and with a very wealthy man in his burial God cares for the poor and the rich for extreme murders and rich people he doesn't exclude anybody and Mary Magdalene was there and the other Mary sitting opposite the grave and the next day which is one after the preparation the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate and they said sir we remember that when he was still alive that deceiver

said after three days I'm to rise again now they were concerned just in case this is going to happen imagine they they didn't believe in the resurrection and they thought but something may happen here we don't know what so maybe the disciples will come and steal the body or something and say that he is risen and so they gave this they came to Pilate they were so particular to make sure the grave was protected from this type of theft and all that which is all very good it was good because it's proved in history that the resurrection had nothing to do with anybody rolling away the stone or any disciples coming there so godly ordained this that Pilate should get us security off military people to guard that tomb so he said please give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third

day lest the disciples come and steal him away and say to the people he's risen from the dead and the last deception will be worse than the first so Pilate said go ahead you have a guard go and make it secure as you know how and they went and made the grave secure and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone not only they put a guard the Roman soldiers a number of them that kept doing shifts so that 24 hours that always be some awake Roman soldiers watching over that tomb to make sure no disciple came anywhere near there in any case one soldier alone would have been enough to drive away any disciples but there was a number of soldiers continuously there around the tomb of Jesus for all those three days and they put a seal as well on the tomb which if you know if somebody had

moved it or broke to move the stone the seal would be broken and this was God's way of sovereignly proving that the resurrection was not a fake that even this thing which Pilate ordered was something that God allowed so that history would record that it was not the disciples who took the body away here was something the Roman authorities the government trying to protect anybody from coming anywhere near the grave this is not just like some cemetery somewhere anybody could come in and walk in and take walk off with the body because if it was not like this people could have spread all types of stories and so God allowed this to happen so that there would be clear proof that the resurrection was a supernatural event that came from God you see the sovereignty of God that's what we learn that

if your lives are surrendered to God God makes everything work for our good in his glory his sovereignty determines that and controls that we'll continue in our next episode

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/zac-poonen/all-that-jesus-taught-bible-study-part-78/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**