

Sermon Outline

“Final Testimony”

Matthew 27:45-54

- I.** The flow of the narrative
 - Signs of pending judgment vv. 45-49
 - Death of Jesus v. 50
 - Signs in the earth vv. 51-54

- II.** The signs of pending judgment vv. 45-49
 - Darkness from the sixth hour (noon) v. 45 (*cf.* 24:29)
 - The cry of abandonment (Ps 22:1) v. 46

 - The response of the soldiers vv. 47-49
 - Kindness v. 48
 - Uninformed interest v. 49

- III.** The death of Jesus v. 50
 - A loud cry
 - Yielding up his spirit
 - “Save thyself” and “Come down from the cross” (v. 42)
 - “Not my will, but thine” (26:39, 42)

- IV.** Signs in the earth vv. 51-53
 - The veil torn, earthquake, rocks splitting v. 51
 - The dead rising vv. 52-53
 - All these prefigure the resurrection of Jesus (28:2-6)

 - The response of the soldiers (in fear, recognition) v. 54
 - Statement of faith or not, it recognizes the truth

 - Contrast with Israel
 - Three witnesses of vv. 39-44

 - Rejected by Israel, Jesus opens the door to the Gentiles
 - See John 1:10-13