



Direct Access

By Derek Kiser on May 30, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Mark 15

I have often wondered what it would be like to be the son of someone powerful or famous. What would it be like to be the son of the President of the United State or the son of a General or CEO? When I was young, my dad had a secretary that I had to talk to before I could talk to him, but I am not sure he ever had anyone filtered by the secretary. I think about how I would react in an environment with my sons if I heard them say DaDa or Daddy in a distressed tone. I would probably knock over anyone or anything between myself and my boys to get to them. What would it be like if my dad was the President and I had to go through a Secret Service checkpoint and multiple people just to go say hello and have time with him?

One verse in Mark 15 specifically caught my attention. Verse 38 has a powerful message behind it. In Old Testament time before Jesus' death, burial and resurrection there was a temple and the sacrificial system. The temple had multiple sections and God's presence was in the section called the Holy of Holies. Because God does not allow sin in His presence and all humans are sinful, a huge curtain or veil separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple. The only person allowed into the Holy of Holies was the High Priest, once a year. This High priest was only allowed to go in after following careful procedures, one which included him wearing a garment with bells tied around his waist and a rope around his foot. If he did not do as God instructed and the bells stopped tinkling, others knew to pull him out because he was dead. What is the purpose of all of this? The people always had to make sacrifices and go through priests. They never had direct access to God.

Everything changed on the cross. It is just a few words but it is a huge change in verse 38, *"And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom."* The veil, the curtain that was a barrier representing our sin that prohibited access to God, was now gone. Believers no longer have to go to a priest with a sacrifice. We have direct access to our Father in Heaven, God. Jesus was the perfect High Priest who made the ultimate sacrifice once for all time. We can pray anywhere, anytime and talk to our Heavenly Father, our Abba Father. No veils, no priests, no secret service agents, just us talking to our Heavenly Father.

PRAYER: God, thank You for making a way for a sinner like me to have access to You through your Son, Jesus Christ. God, encourage me to take advantage of the access I have to You to pursue a deep relationship with you, my Heavenly Father.

TOMORROW'S READING: Mark 16

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