



I like to think that I am fairly tech savvy. I'm not too scared when things go wrong with my computer or phone. I just start playing with it and try and figure it out. Some of my family members ask me when they have tech issues. Unfortunately, the older I get the less that's true. But right now, I feel like I can handle technology on my own. I'm sure some of you are rolling your eyes. But no matter how technologically knowledgeable you are, when something goes wrong with technology, whether it's a computer or a phone or your internet, what is the first thing you do to try and fix it? You turn it off and turn it back on. Or you push the reset button on the back. You push and hold the power button for 10 seconds. You reset it. You realize things aren't working so you reset it. And many times, it works. When your phone isn't working and you reset it and it works, there is such a feeling of excitement and accomplishment. You feel like, I did that! I fixed it! Doing a reset gives you a fresh start.

There are times in your life that you feel like you need a reset too. You feel like your life is out of control. You think whatever it is that is going on, it's not working. Whether it's something with your family or your school or your friends or your future. Sometimes you feel like you just want a reset. You just want a fresh start.

This week and next week we're going to see through the Easter story that God gives us a reset. Today we're going to start by looking at the story of Jesus' death. In Matthew, Mark, and Luke as we read the story of Jesus' death, there is a line that is mentioned so quickly that sometimes its overlooked. It almost seems like a throwaway line. But this little line shows us the ultimate reset that God gives. So, let's read the story as Jesus is on the cross:

READ: Mark 15:33-37

³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”

³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.

³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

This are Jesus' last moments before His death. He was in agonizing pain. He cried out to God. He gave this last exasperated, powerful yell and breathed His last breath and our Savior, the Son of God, died on the cross.

Then here's our seeming out of place, almost throwaway line:

READ: Mark 15:38

³⁸ The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

Then the story seems to pick back right back up:

READ: Mark 15:39

³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

The soldier standing around, seeing the way Jesus died and everything that had happened, realized that Jesus must have been God’s child.

So just to recap, the author here, Mark, was talking about Jesus in the most intense moment of His life. Our Savior, the Son of God, our Messiah had just died on the cross. And then it cuts away to talk about an interior decorating issue! Then it cut back to the soldier at the cross who realized and proclaimed that Jesus really was the Son of God. What?! This seems so out of place. We’re at the cross, then we cut to the Temple for a moment

to talk about drapes, then we're back at the cross. It seems so odd to include it in this story.

But this little moment, this little line, "The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom," has such weight and meaning and is a key piece in the reset story that God has been telling.

Why does this matter? Let's jump back thousands of years and learn a little history. I know it's not everyone's favorite topic but stick with me. In the time of Moses, God had his people, the Israelites, build what was called "the tabernacle." You can read about that in Exodus 25 and the following chapters. This was a structure that the Israelites were to use to worship God. In the design of the tabernacle, the inner most room was called the Holy of Holies or the Most Holy Place.

It was called the Holy of Holies because that was a Hebrew phrase to represent the most Holy something. For example, they would say things like the servant of servants, meaning there's no better servant. Or the king of kings, meaning there's no higher king. Today we might say the best of the best. So holy of holies means the most holy place on the whole Earth.

Why was this the most holy place? **READ:** Exodus 26:33-34

³³ Hang the curtain from the clasps and place the ark of the covenant law behind the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. ³⁴ Put the atonement cover on the ark of the covenant law in the Most Holy Place.

So why was it the most holy place? Because the ark of the covenant was in the Holy of Holies and according to Exodus 25:22 God says, "There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the covenant law, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites." This is where God Himself would physically rest on this Earth. He would have a physical presence on this Earth above the ark of the covenant in the Holy of Holies and that is where He would meet with His people.

Years later, Israel had gone through a bunch more history and a guy named David and his son Solomon at the end of 1 Chronicles and the

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- What did we talk about last week?
- What stood out to you from the message today?
- Peter showed a lot of confidence at the beginning of this story. When have you been overconfident in a situation before?
- How have you ever let someone down?
- When Jesus came back and interacted with Peter again, why didn't He rub Peter's face in his betrayal?
- How do your actions towards the people you love show that you love them?
- How have you felt in the past when you have experienced forgiveness? Specifically, how do you feel towards the person who forgave you?
- **[TEACHER NOTE: Have a piece of paper, pen/pencil, and trash can available.]** Part of the reset story is being broken by your sin and receiving forgiveness. Is there a sin in your life right now that you need to deal with? You don't have to share it with the group, but I want you to write it on this piece of paper. Reread 1 John 1:9. Take a moment to pray confessing that sin to God. Then, tear that paper up and throw it in the trash can.

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