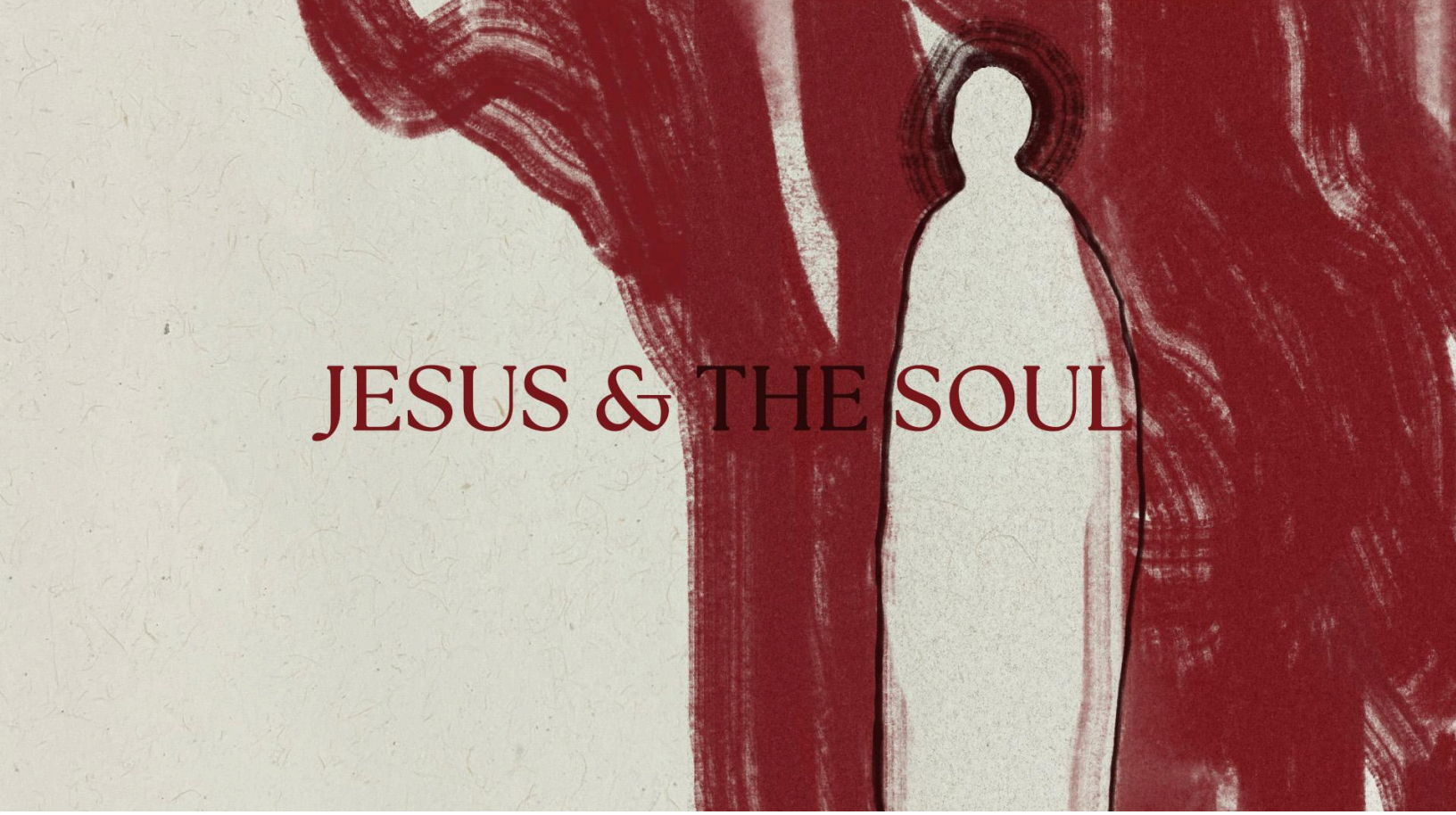


The Dark Night of the Soul
09.28.2025
Mark 15:33-39
Dave Lomas

Mark 15:33-39
At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 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?”).
When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”
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.
With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. 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!”



Oh you guiding night!
Oh night more kindly
than the dawn!
Oh you night that united
Lover with beloved,
the beloved in the Lover
transformed!
– St. John of the Cross

The Dark Night of the Soul is when our known-sense of God disappears and/or when our affect-sense of God vanishes.

Union with God & the Ineffability of God

John 17:20-23
“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

Colossians 1:26-27
The mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Ephesians 3:16-19
I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

God is inconceivable, ungraspable, and simply beyond us.

Isaiah 6:1-3
In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

Union with God & the Ineffability of God

Head, Heart, & Personality

Our soul creates attachments to what the mind conceptualizes, what the heart possesses, and what the personality controls.

Oh you guiding night!
Oh night more kindly
than the dawn!
Oh you night that united
Lover with beloved,

the beloved in the Lover
transformed!
– St. John of the Cross

“The Dark Night” is naming the hidden, obscured work, God does in the soul.

Job 3:25
What I feared has come upon me;
what I dreaded has happened to me.

Job 13:15
Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him;
I will surely defend my ways to his face.

“The dark night is a profoundly good thing. It is an ongoing spiritual process in which we are liberated from attachments and compulsions and empowered to live and love more freely.”

- Gerald May, *The Dark Night of the Soul*