

BETWEEN THE LINES

A Deeper Look...

#837- THE VEILED CHRIST: 40 Days of Learning

Implications of "The Veil": I confess, I took the title and concept of this series from a thought that is a bit out of context... but I think it's justifiable. In order to get a fuller sense of the Biblical implication of "veiling" let's look at some passages that utilize "Veil", "Vail", "Shroud", "Curtain", and the like...

- Genesis 24:65 (Ruth 3:15 and I Corinthians 11:6.7) Modesty until appropriate time.
- Genesis 38:14 This can be a tool for disguise also.
- Exodus 27:21 It's not a barrier that just anyone can penetrate.
- Exodus 30:6 God's radiant presence dwells on the other side of the veil.
- Exodus 34:33 When you've been with God you also need to be shrouded.
- Exodus 40:3 As I am, I truly need a screen to protect me from the Ark and its Dweller.
- Leviticus 4:6,17 This is the site of blood spattering for sin and trespass.
- Leviticus 16:2,12,15 It is the compromised barrier of Atonement.
- Leviticus 18:7 Access within the veil is restricted.
- Leviticus 21:3 Only those without blemish have access in the veil.
- Leviticus 24:3 Outside that veiled area you need artificial light... interesting!
- Numbers 3:26 & 4:5, 25 Even bearing the veil was a limited sacred duty.
- II Samuel 7:2 (& I Chronicles 17:1) David feels God needs "an upgrade".
- II Chronicles 4:14 Solomon creates a new veil for the new Holy of Holies.
- Psalms 104:2 (Also Isaiah 40:22 and Ezekiel 31:3) Cloudy Heavens shroud us from God.
- Isaiah 25:7 In this passage the veil is equated with death itself.
- Jeremiah 10:20 God's veil had fallen to disrepair and no one cared.
- Matthew 27:51 (Also Mark 15 and Luke 23) At Messiah's death God rent this barrier.
- II Corinthians 3:13-16 Perhaps our best description of the concept.
- II Corinthians 4:3 To some the Gospel itself is shrouded.
- Hebrews 6:19 Jesus, our high priest, has given us access through to God.
- Hebrews 9:3 As long as I'm on this side I'm at a distance from God.
- Hebrews 10:20 Jesus, Himself, was that barrier.

In Conclusion: What does this add up to? A nice foundation for equating the "shrouding" of Jesus in the last chapters of the Gospels. We see Him as the barrier, pathway, buffering, and blood splattered veil on this side of the Cross.

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**The Ministry By The Lake:** In John 5:16-46 Jesus left Jerusalem (originally) to go to the Galilee and minister there (as Isaiah 9:1,2 said He would). Life was quieter there, He was more accepted in that region, and it mostly became the base of His life ministry until He left the area specifically to go to Jerusalem to die (Luke 9:51).

Let's just take the Gospel of Mark to try to chronologically flesh out the events of His ministry by the side of the lake. (This, then, will exclude the events in Samaria, Perea, Judea, and the upper Galilee.)

- 1:14-15 Jesus begins His Galilean tenure.
- 1:16-20 He calls men of the lake to be His apostles.
- 1:21-28 He is challenged by a demon in the synagogue by the lake.
- 1:29-34 Peter's mother-in-law is the first of many to be healed that Sabbath evening.
- 1:35-39 Jesus leaves a morning of preparatory prayer to tour the lake region.

- 1:40-45 The first leper is healed, we're not sure if it was right on the lake or not.
- 2:1-12 A paralytic is carried by friends and lowered through the roof.
- 2:13-14 Jesus affronts His entourage by calling a publican who taxes the region.
- 3:1-6 A man who is damaged will be brought to full manhood by the lake.
- 3:7-12 His notoriety is growing around the shoreline.
- 3:13-19 Mark's brief account of Matthew's three chapter "Sermon on the Mount".
- Matthew and Luke interject some events here that Mark did not record... A healed centurion's servant, (Matthew 8:5-13 and Luke 7:1-10), two blind men healed (Matthew 9:27-31), and a dumb demoniac (Matthew 9:32-34). The widow's son in Nain is also raised (Luke 7:11-17) but though that it technically in the Galilee it is not a "lakeside" event.
- 3:20-30 Matthew (12:22-24) and Luke (11:14-15) share it was the healing of a demoniac that triggered this dispute.
- 3:31-35 Visit by His mother and brothers.
- 4:1-34 Jesus teaches parables by the side of the sea.
- Matthew here adds a brief interaction that Jesus had with a young man by the lake. (8:19-22)
- 4:35-41 They experience a storm on the lake.
- 5:1-20 A challenge by demons at Gadara on the north shore.
- 2:15-27 Matthew holds a feast for Jesus.
- 2:18-22 This event triggers some challenges about fasting and His lifestyle.
- 5:21-43 An invalid woman and a dead little girl.
- Matthew and Luke here share that Jesus is challenged and questioned by John's disciples... (Matthew 11:2-6 and Luke 7:18-23) and Jesus eulogizes John (Matthew 11:7-30 and Luke 7:24-35).
- 6:7-13 Jesus returns from an inland tour and goes back to the lake region.
- 6:14-29 John was martyred while Jesus was by the lake.
- 6:30-44 The feeding of 5,000 by the shoreline.
- 6:45-56 Jesus rescues His apostles by walking across the storm.
- 7:1-23 He is again challenged about ritual defilements and His lifestyle.
- 8:1-10 He feeds 4,000 this time and gets right into the ship.
- 8:11-21 Some wish for a final sign from Him for His earthly authority and He sails on.
- 8:14-21 While on the boat Jesus has to reprimand the disciples a bit.
- 8:22-26 He is accosted by a blind man at Bethsaida on the northeast shore.
- 9:33-50 Back to the shoreline and more challenges.
- 10:1 He leaves the lakeside and doesn't return again until after the resurrection.

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Post-Resurrection Events: In our radio presentations we touched on many of these but here's an exhaustive list of all interactions with Jesus after He came out of the grave until His ascension...

- He comes forth from the grave: Matthew 28:1-15, Mark 16:1-11, Luke 24:1-12, and John 20:1-18.
- The shrouded walk to Emmaus: Mark 16:12 and Luke 24:13-22.
- A first appearance in the Upper Room: Mark 16:13, Luke 24:33-49, and John 20:19-23.
- A second appearance in the Upper Room: Mark 16:14 and John 20:24-29.
- He follows His disciples to the lake: John 21:1-23.
- He meets them on a selected Galilean mountain: Matthew 28:16-20 and Mark 16:15-18.
- He is with them in Jerusalem and leads them out in triumph to witness the Ascension: Mark 16:19-20, Luke 24:50-53, and Acts 1:1-9.

In Conclusion: I fully believe that as you invest yourself into reading these passages that Christ, Himself, will be right beside you...veiled, but with His hand on your shoulder.

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