

Total Eclipse of the Son
 Matthew 10:37-39, Psalm 72:1-7
 August 20, 2017

Intro: What happens in an eclipse.

Elcipses happen somewhere on earth ever 12-18 months.

The moon is 400 x's smaller than the sun,

The moon is 2,159 miles in diameter.

(About the distance between here and Phoenix, AZ)

The Sun is about 865,000 miles in diameter.

(Around the world about 36 times)

Still, the moon can block the sun's rays.

Totally obscure and obliterate it from our sight.

Everything around us gets cold and dark.

- We were created for a loving relationship with God.
- When God told Moses how to have the high priest bless the people, the great blessing He wanted to bestow was, "***The Lord make His face to shine upon you ...***"
- But sometimes things obscure our relationship with God.
- Things come between us and God, and we experience spiritual eclipse.

1. Our sin comes between us and God.

- *Eternal God, in Whom we live and move and have our being, Your face is hidden from us by our sins, and we forget Your mercy in the blindness of our hearts.*
- The answer is to confess and repent.
- Gospel. EE.
- Even after we're Christians, we sin.

Isaiah 1:16 ***Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong.***

James 4:8 ***Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.***

- When God is chastising us, it is to draw us closer.

2. Disappointment can come between us and God.

Psalm 13:1-2 *How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? 2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?*

- Sometimes we work out a theology that suits our purposes and desires. We make up our own narrative as to how God ought to act, how things ought to go and when things don't go that way, we blame God.
- "If God loves me, why can't I get my locker open?"
- My mom's cancer was a great illustration. Example. Actually that didn't create an eclipse, just disappointment. But it could have.
- Learn more about God. (Often ignorance separates us from God.) Keep walking with him Trust grows.

3. Earthly affections can come between us and God.

Matthew 10:37 *"Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."*

- One critique I would have of my preaching is that I talk too much about how I love my wife and how wonderful she is.
- But I'm madly in love with her. And she with me.
- But there's another man she loves more than me! And I love Him even more than I love her.
- She hasn't died for me. She can't give me eternal life.
- She can't fill me with the Holy Spirit.
- She can't transform me – so she's given up!
- Her love is great, but not perfect.
- Her wisdom is great, but not perfect.

- The fact that we both love Jesus more than we love one another is the core strength of our marriage.
- If your spouse is not a believer, still, put Christ first.
- Don't let anything come between you and Christ.

4. Many things can come between us and God.

4.1 False Gods Exodus 20:2-4 ***2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.3 "You shall have no other gods before me.4 "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.***

I Timothy 2:5 ***For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,***

- "Nothing comes between me and my Calvins."

4.2 Greed Colossians 3:5 ***Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.***

4.3 Fear I John 4:18 ***There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.***

4.4 Anxiety Philippians 4:6 ***Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.***

5. Sometimes we just experience the Dark night of the soul.

■ **St. John of the Cross, ca 1580, *La noche oscura del alma***
 Psalm 22:1-2, 23-24 ***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? 2 My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. ... 23 You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! 24 For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from his but has listened to his cry for help.***

- You just have to wait it out. Keep trusting.
- Keep serving and obeying.
- Mother Teresa experienced it.
- Teaching a baby to walk.

- The sun doesn't really go away during a solar eclipse.
- And the Lord doesn't go anywhere when you experience a spiritual eclipse.

6. We need to constantly seek God.

Deuteronomy 4:29 ***But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.***

Jeremiah 29:13 ***You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.***

I Peter 3:15 ***But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.***

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