

UNDEFEATED #1

Separation is defeated

Defeat: being separated from the thing you want to be connected to

When we experience the feeling of defeat, we also experience a feeling of separation. It seems like we've been moved apart or away from the thing we really want.

But here's the good news: **We aren't meant to live our lives feeling defeated.** God made the world, **He created people to have a relationship with Him**

There was separation because of sin

God told His people to build a Tabernacle

God Himself chose to dwell there! God made a way to be close to His people

Even though God was able to be closer to His people by living in the Tabernacle, He was still physically separated from them.

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

So what does this mean? Why exactly did Jesus have to die for our sins? Well, we're going to dive more into that the coming weeks, but what I want you to pay attention to is this: **Jesus died on the cross with the weight of all sin on His shoulders. He took the payment for all our mistakes and the burden for all our sins. Why? Because He loves us so much that He wanted to make a way for us to be close to God once again.**

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51).

Did you catch that? At the very same time that Jesus was dying— when He was ending our separation from God because of our sins—the physical curtain that separated everyone from God in the Most Holy Place—tore straight down the middle! **The physical separation ended because Jesus ended our spiritual separation from God.**

With Jesus' death on the cross that we celebrate every Easter, we also celebrate the end of our separation from God. **Because of Jesus, separation is defeated.**

And when we believe in Jesus, **we never have to worry that sin—our actions, mindsets, and choices that keep us from God's best—will keep us separated from God again.**

God loves you so much that He made a way for you to be close to Him. He paid the highest price to make sure that you wouldn't have to feel separated from Him. That's what Easter is all about!

Because of Jesus, separation is defeated, and that means your relationship with God can be right no matter what you've done.

What's one thing in my life that I feel separates me from God? How do I deal with this?

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been undefeated in something? How did you feel?
2. How do you know when you're close to someone? What are some characteristics of a close relationship?
3. What did the Tabernacle veil symbolize?
Why do you think God had this physical representation of separation before the people?
4. Why do you think separation from God was such a big deal?
5. God stepped in and made a way for the separation we experienced to be dealt with.
What does that teach us about Him and His feelings about us?