

Jesus' Death
Matthew 27:27-56 (Psalm 22)
December 26, 2021

"The greatest tragedy and the greatest victory took place at the crucifixion of Jesus."

~ **Adrian Rogers**

"Jesus drank the cup of wrath without mercy so that we may drink the cup of mercy without wrath."

~ **Unknown**

Jesus cries out, "My God, My God why have you forsaken me?" This was not a question looking for answers per se but expressing the difficulty of the Cross and the separation from the Father's fellowship was immense. For Jesus (and the Father), this was a moment of agony, the Father was giving up the Son to suffer all of the sin and judgment that sin brought.

So why the question of, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

1) Because Of God's Will (Plan)!

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

John 8:12

"Jesus knew that the Father would have to treat Jesus like Barabbas so he could treat Barabbas like Jesus." ~ **Judah Smith**

Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, ²⁴ but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

Romans 4:23-25

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Verse 45, "Now from the sixth hour darkness fell on all the land until the ninth hour." When Christ was born, Luke 2:9 to 11 says there was great light that dawned. Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, in the anticipation of the arrival of the Messiah says, "The Sunrise from on high shall visit us to shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death." When Jesus came, the light went on, the light of God, the glorious light of the gospel shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Jesus even said in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world, whoever believes in Me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." "He urged men to come to the light...John 12:35 and 36...while the light was still there."

Our Lord was then light. He was identified with light. He was the light to the Gentiles, that is to the world. But at His death there is darkness from the sixth hour until the ninth hour. The Jews begin to measure their day from 6 A.M., the sixth hour is noon. From noon to three it was dark. Mark 15:25 says, "He was crucified at the third hour," 9 A.M. So the first three hours He was hanging there visible, naked before the watching people in the light. Those three hours passed. Soldiers had nailed Him there. They had placed the sign over His head. He is suspended there in the horrific indignity as the passers-by, the soldiers, the curious, the religious leaders watch and mock and insult Him. During that three hours He only broke the silence three times. Once He said to the soldiers, of the soldiers to the Father, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." The second time He spoke to a penitent thief at His side and said, "Verily, this day you will

be with Me in paradise." Once more He broke the three-hour silence looking down at Mary and John, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son," pointing to John. And to John, "Behold your mother," thus giving her into the care of John. In the light He said three things. All three of them were demonstrations of mercy, mercy toward the soldiers, mercy toward the thief, mercy toward Mary. Each was a revelation of the light of His grace, the shining beauty of His compassion. ~ **John McArthur**

2) If Jesus Wasn't Forsaken, I Would Be.

In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. **Colossians 2:11-15**

Now going back to verse 46, back to what He originally said, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" What does that tell us about the cross? If darkness demonstrates wrath, God's separation demonstrates holiness...holiness. This is the miracle in which God comments that holiness is at work. Wrath is at work but so is holiness. Holiness is the issue of separation. The word "holy" means separate. On the one hand, God pours out His wrath in judgment on sin. At the same time that God is pouring out His wrath in judgment on sin, He turns His back protecting His perfect holiness. He had to turn away from His own Son when He made Him sin for us. The lesson here is that this is a holy moment that guilty sinners cut off, separated from God, are being atoned for by this man hanging on that cross. God had to forsake, to abandon, "Why have You abandoned Me?" He had to abandon Jesus at that point because He is holy and Jesus had become the guilt offering. The gulf then was placed between the Father and the Son and Jesus hungering for the Father's beloved communion and knowing Himself to be innocent asks why. And that's the why of holiness as well. Why am I not fit to fellowship with You? And the answer is that for that moment God treated Jesus as if He had personally committed every sin ever committed by every person who would ever believe. And so the point, you see, of the separation is to show that Jesus did indeed become sin. That's why the Father turned His back. He was the real substitute for sinners.

3) So That I Could Know God (Fellowship).

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He ^[a] should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. **John 17:1-3**

4) God Forsook The Son So That I Would Forsake Myself.

God allowed, or I should say orchestrated Jesus' death, so that one day I might die to myself and live to Jesus. In order to have life there must first be death, Jesus' then mine!

I then learn daily to die to myself, to forsake myself (humble).

Prayer Focus:

- **Trust God's Plan.**
- **Thank God for forsaking His Son.**
- **Thank God for the fellowship that we have.**
- **Die to our self.**