

LENT SERIES

7 Sayings of Jesus (4 or 7)

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Mark 15:33-36

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

Pastor S.C. Brown

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Pray.

Illustration: {something about abandonment?}

Jesus knows what it is like to be abandoned. So many followed him but they're no where to be found at the cross. Most of his closest friends are gone. Only John and his mom and a few other women are there at his death.

But that was nothing compared to the abandonment he was experiencing from God the Father. From the beginning of time itself, {even before time}, he has had complete fellowship with God the Father as God the Son. Now.....something has changed.

Let's read in **Mark 15**, starting in verse **33**.

33 And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. 34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

This is from noon till 3:00pm. Darkness. How have you pictured this? Dark clouds from a storm? An eclipse? Well, it's impossible that it's an eclipse because Passover happened at a full moon. Also eclipses don't last for 3 hours. At the longest it would be 7 minutes and 31 seconds. So, what is it? All we know is that for 3 hours it was dark. That 3 hours was while Jesus was on the cross. It lasted until Jesus died. God is saying something by it.

Amos 8:9-10 says,
“And on that day’, declares the Lord GOD, ‘I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on every waist and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son and the end of it like bitter day.’”

Darkness can relate to a curse & judgement. (Exodus 10) Darkness can mean mourning & displeasure. This darkness is a sign of the reality of what Jesus is experiencing. What is he experiencing?

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Jesus isn't simply saying this...just to say it.

It's a question!

But, it's not a question that Jesus doesn't know the answer to either.

This question would best be read in the context of

Psalm 22. Listen to these words from **Psalm 22**.

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

6 But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. 7 All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; 8 "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; 15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. 16 For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—17 I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me; 18 they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. But you oh LORD, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me...so long?”

“How long, Lord? When will this end?”

So, this physical darkness symbolizes what is taking place. This is a cosmic sign that there is separation in the Godhead at this moment.

God the Father has forsaken God the Son.

He cannot look on him at this moment.

God the Son is being punished by the will of God the Father.

Listen to what **Isaiah** says ,

3 He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

10 “Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief.”

The question from Jesus is:

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

What’s the answer?

Why did God the Father forsake Jesus?

Answer:

God. God is the creator of all things (Gen. 1:1). He is perfectly holy, worthy of all worship, and will punish sin (1 John 1:5, Rev. 4:11, Romans 2:5-8).

In his very being, God is holy, perfect and hates sin.

Habakkuk 1:13 says about God, “**You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong.**”

Man. All people, though created good, have become sinful by nature (Gen. 1:26-28, Ps. 51:5, Rom. 3:23). From birth, all people are alienated from God, hostile to God, and subject to the wrath of God (Ephesians. 2:1-3).

Romans 3:23 says, “**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**”

Christ. Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully man, lived a sinless life, died on the cross to bear God’s wrath in the place of all who would believe in him, and rose from the grave in order to give his people eternal life (John 1:1, 1 Tim. 2:5, Heb. 7:26, Rom. 3:21-26, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Cor. 15:20-22).

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “**For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**”

Response. God calls everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and trust in Christ in order to be saved (Mark 1:15, Acts 20:21, Rom. 10:9-10).

John 3:17-18 says, “**For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.**”

- God the Father poured out his wrath on Jesus, so that it wouldn't be you.
- God the Father abandoned Jesus on the cross, so that you wouldn't be abandoned.
- Jesus was cursed, so that you could be un-cursed.

“The penalty for sin is divine forsakenness.” **Sproul**

Those who reject Christ will be forever separated from God. Those who believe will not be forsaken, but will be in the presence of God forever.....because Christ was forsaken on their behalf.

Let me close with a quote from **Wayne Grudem**, explaining Romans chapter 3.

“God had not simply forgiven sin and forgotten about the punishment in generations past [*with the sacrifice of bulls and sheep*]. He had forgiven sins and stored up his righteous anger against those sins. But at the cross the fury of all that stored up wrath against sin was unleashed against God’s own Son.” (brackets mine)

Almighty God & heavenly Father, creator of all things and ruler of the universe, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus to this planet to willingly pay our sin debt. Thank you for your amazing grace; grace that is greater than all my sin. Grant that we might grasp how high, how wide, how long and how deep is the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. Help us grasp it now as we take the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of Jesus.

