

DESERTED, FORSAKEN, ALL ALONE ON THE CROSS

Matthew 27:46

Introduction: Taken prisoner, His disciples ran away, deserting Him, taken before Pilate, falsely accused, condemned, whipped, beaten, mocked, forced to carry a cross some distance out of town, then His hands and feet were nailed to the cross and there He hung, left to die as people passing by mocked and made fun of Him and if that wasn't enough, God, His Heavenly Father also left Him. There Jesus hung, deserted, forsaken, all alone on the cross and He cried out, "*...Eli, Eli, lame sabachtani? That is to say, My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?...*" (Matthew 27:46)

I. GOD HAD FORSAKEN JESUS

1. Body pain and distress is one thing but grief of one's mind is much harder to bear than body pain.
 - One can bear a bleeding body and even a wounded spirit, but when one is conscious of desertion by God, that is beyond belief, conception and unendurable.
2. Jesus was not imagining that God had left for His faith never weakened but His relationship with God His Heavenly Father was so intimate that He knew without a doubt that God had withdrawn His presence and fellowship.
3. Sensing that God had forsaken Him, Jesus broke His silence and cried out "*...Lama sabachthani...*"
 - It was not "why has Peter forsaken me?"
 - It was not "why has Judas betrayed me?"
 - Those were indeed hurtful things, but God forsaking Him cut Him to the quick.
4. It was very remarkable that God would forsake Jesus.
 - It is not God's way to leave any of His children when death comes or in their weaknesses or pain.
 - "*...Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me...*"
 - All through the centuries God's children have sensed the presence of God as they were dying or being in some sort of affliction.
 - Remember the three men thrown into the fiery furnace? Was not God with them?
 - No, it is not God's way to forsake His brave nor to leave even the weakest of His children in their hour of trial.
5. Had God ever left Jesus before?
 - All four of the Gospels speak of Jesus' constant fellowship with God, His Heavenly Father, Jesus lived in constant touch/fellowship with God, always near and dear.
 - Now, for the first time, Jesus realizes that God, His Heavenly Father, has left Him.
6. God's leaving Jesus was a very terrible thing.
 - Who can fully know what it is to be forsaken by God?
 - God has never left any of us completely for He has said, "*...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee...*"
 - It was the hour that Jesus was made to stand before God as the SIN-BEARER.

- Jesus had no sin of His own, but God "*...laid on Him the iniquity of us all...*"
 - Jesus was the lone Lamb of God which would take away the sin of the world and therefore He must feel the weight of sin and the turning away of the face of God who cannot look upon sin.

7. God gave no open recognition.

- God had on occasion spoken where others could hear, "*...This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased...*"
- "*...Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree...*"
- God could have sent countless angels at Gethsemane or when Jesus was beaten or when He was forced to carry His cross or when they nailed Him to the cross, but He didn't.
- Well might Jesus ask, "*...My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?...*"

II. WHY DID GOD FORSAKE JESUS?

1. Jesus did not cry out against God, but TO God, "*...MY God, MY God...*"
 - It was a cry of faith.
2. Didn't Jesus know why God left Him?
 - It was the humanity of Jesus crying out, the soul of a man coming in contact with the justice of God.
 - Jesus had taken on the nature of man and up to this time He had remained pure and sinless, but now all the sinfulness of mankind was poured upon Him and Jesus was undergoing what all sinful men experience, the absence of God.
3. Jesus did not draw back, He remained submitted and resolved to finish what He had come to do.
 - Sin was laid on Him and He was being treated as if He had been actually guilty, though He had personally never sinned.
 - Now the horror of rebellion against His most Holy Father and God filled His Holy being and the sin was breaking His heart.
 - Jesus knew that God's desertion was needful in order for Him to be able to save the guilty.
4. Jesus would have us think about how much He suffered and why.

III. WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME OF JESUS' BEING FORSAKEN BY GOD?

1. Jesus took OUR (sinful man) place.
 - He was perfect, no spot, no sin of His own.
 - Yet He took our (man's) sin and therefore had to be treated as though He were actually a sinner like the rest of mankind.
 - Jesus fully consented to suffer as if He was guilty of all the sin which was laid on Him.
 - OUR sin is the answer to the question "*...Why hast thou forsaken me?*"
2. Jesus' obedience was perfect.
 - Jesus came into this world to obey God, His Heavenly Father and He did just that to His very last moment of life on this earth.

- How much farther could Jesus go? God, His Heavenly Father had forsaken Him.
3. What Jesus went through was appropriate and necessary.
 - It was one thing to have His body pained and His mind sorrowed but to be forsaken by God was an entirely different matter.
 - For a person to be forsaken by God is the penalty which always follows one breaking his/her relationship with God through sin.
 - Adam ate of the tree in disobedience and God separated Himself from Adam.
 - The separation of the soul from God is spiritual death.
 - The sacrifice for sin must be put in the place of separation and must yield to the penalty of death.
 - Even the Holy One, Jesus, who was standing, the Just for the unjust, found God forsaking Him, what must the doom of the actual sinner be?
 4. The approving look of God cannot fall on a person who is sinful nor upon the ONE who is standing in the place of the guilty.
 - Jesus not only suffered FROM sin, but FOR sin.
 - There could have been no usefulness in Jesus' suffering for human sin/guilt, if God had not forsaken Him. It was necessary for God to withdraw as His Son, Jesus, had become sinful, even though it was the sins of others.
 5. Jesus carried out God's law about sin being paid for.

"...For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."
 6. Jesus, the Captain of man's salvation was made "perfect" through His suffering.
 - There's not a "road" in life that Jesus has not traveled after the cross and God's forsaking Him.
 - He could never have sympathized with those who have been forsaken by God for their sin.
 - He could never have understood those who live in darkness away from God.

CONCLUSION:

1. Believers in Jesus Christ in Him alone for their salvation for Jesus has experienced all and has paid all that God requires for a sinner to be made right in God's eyes.
2. God will never forsake any who believe in His Son, for He forsook His Son on their behalf.
3. Learn from Jesus when you think that maybe God has left you.
 - Go to your Bible, find scripture that fits you.
 - Pray more earnest than ever before.
 - Remember what it was that put Jesus on the cross and what He endured, it was for YOU!
4. May your eyes and heart be opened more as you think upon Jesus and all that He went through so that YOU might be made right with God, the Heavenly Father.