

SHOCKING WORDS FROM THE CROSS

Matthew 27:46

Introduction: Everyone had left Jesus it seemed. Deserted, abandoned, His friends hiding in fear. Only a few faithful women, His mother and best friend, John were there. There were plenty of His enemies there though. The religious leaders who forced Pilate to put Jesus on the cross and the soldiers who actually nailed Him to the cross were all there. And finally when it seemed that nothing else could go wrong, Jesus sensed that God, the Father also left Him and Jesus cried out those spine tingling words, *“...My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me?”*

Why would God forsake His only begotten Son? God had never forsaken His own people and He promises to never forsake us, even today. Why would God leave His Son, especially at this tragic moment when Jesus needed His Heavenly Father the most?

I. HERE IS SEEN THE AWFULNESS OF SIN AND ITS RESULTS

- The depraved human heart and its hatred of God. Its ingratitude, its loving darkness and its preference for evil and murder.
- The character of the devil and his hostility against God is revealed along with his insatiable enmity against Jesus Christ and his power to influence the human heart.
- The Holiness of God and His inflexible justice, His terrible wrath, His matchless grace are seen.
- Here sin is clearly revealed and the fearful lengths to which it will go and its results.
- The wages (results) of sin is spiritual death, total separation from God.
- On the cross the Lord Jesus was receiving the results (wages) of sin which were due His people, thus God separated Himself from His Son and therefore Jesus' cry.

II. HERE IS SEEN THE ABSOLUTE HOLINESS AND INFLEXIBLE JUSTICE OF GOD

- At the cross **man** did a work. At the cross **Satan** did a work. At the cross **Jesus** did a work. At the cross **God** did a work. God exhibited His holiness by pouring out His wrath on His Son, Jesus.
- It was because Jesus was bearing **our** sins that the Holy God would not look on Him but turned His face from Him and forsook Him.
- At the cross we see the awfulness of sin and the justice of God in the punishment of it.
- Because Jesus was receiving sin's awful judgment, He was forsaken of God. God could do no less than judge sin, even though it was found on His own Son, Jesus.
- At the cross God's justice was satisfied and His holiness vindicated.

III. HERE GETHSEMANE IS EXPLAINED

- From His birth Jesus suffered from others. During His ministry Jesus suffered from Satan, but at the Cross, Jesus suffered at the hand of God.
- It was in the garden of Gethsemane that Jesus prayed so hard for this cup to pass that He sweated drops of blood while His disciples slept. Jesus could see what was coming - the Cross.
- "Gethsemane" means the "olive press." It was the place where the life-blood of the olives was pressed out drop by drop. On the cross Jesus drank the bitter cup which was given to Him in Gethsamane.

IV. HERE IS SEEN JESUS' UNSWERVING LOYALTY TO GOD

- When forsaken by God, Jesus was left with nothing but His faith in God's covenant and promise.
- Jesus' cry was not one of distrust, but of distress. God had withdrawn from Him, but still Jesus clung to God.
- Think about it: When all visible and sensible support had disappeared, Jesus clung to His faith in God, His Heavenly Father.
- What an example for us. It's so easy to trust God when all is well, but when testing and trials come all seems dark and hopeless. If we say we have faith to die by, then let us also have the faith to live by.

V. HERE IS SEEN THE FOUNDATION OF OUR SALVATION

- God is holy and cannot and will not look upon sin. He must judge sin wherever it is found. Who can stand before God's wrath against sin? Only one. Only one could endure the wrath of God and yet rise victorious above it. That one is the Lord Jesus Christ.
- At the cross all our sins and iniquities were laid upon Jesus and therefore God's divine judgment fell upon Him. There was no way of transferring sin without also transferring its penalty. Therefore both sin and its punishment were transferred to Jesus -
our sin and our punishment!
- For those of us who believe in Jesus, He was our substitute and God recognizes us as being united with Jesus, His Son. Jesus' death is the believer's death and God accepts the believing sinner because of His Son Jesus' death for that sinner.
- Here then is the foundation/basis of the believer in Jesus' salvation. Our sins have already been paid for. God's claims against our sins have been fully met. Jesus Christ was forsaken by God for a while in order that we might enjoy God's presence forever.

VI. HERE IS SEEN THE SUPREME PROOF OF JESUS CHRIST'S LOVE FOR US

- *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (Jn 15:13)*
- The greatness of Jesus' love for us can be estimated only when we are able to measure what was involved in His laying down His life for us.
 - It was much more than His physical death with all the shame, disgrace and suffering.
 - Jesus actually took our place, our sin before God and paid for it for us.
- The greatness of Jesus' love for us can be estimated only when we are able to measure the wrath of God that was poured out on Him. Thus Jesus' cry.
- It was not possible for the cup to pass from Jesus if we were to be saved by His sacrifice. There was nobody else who could do it but Him and He did it all for us.

CONCLUSION:

- Here is the final condition of every person without Jesus - lost, forsaken of God!
- Satan would have everyone believe that they will go to heaven somehow, since God is love.
- God is indeed merciful and has provided a Savior. He invites everyone to receive His Son in order to have eternal life. God is longsuffering, holy and just. But NO Sin allowed!