

Mark 15:33-41 – (Text: V33-37) – The Worst Part of Christ’s Suffering

PNT, TSK, GreekLexicon, Gill, Geneva, Vincent, Handfuls, Rienecker, Poole, Trapp, Robertson, Henry, Clarke, Calvin, Barnes, Abbot, FFG,

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus truly loved you and he showed it.

He *obeyed his Father throughout his life for you,*
he was *betrayed for you,*
abandoned for you,
denied for you,
falsely accused for you,
condemned by the religious leaders for you,
tried and innocently condemned by civil leaders for you,
endured mental and physical tortures for you,
and *faced the painful cross for you and died there.*

But all these things were still not enough to satisfy his Father’s anger against you— so bad your sins were!

Jesus needed to be punished more, with the worst punishment imaginable: He had to be **forsaken by the Father.** This is our focus today.

Our headings are:

Jesus was forsaken for you: Seen

Jesus was forsaken for you: Heard

Our goals are: *That you will be reduced to sadness and tears when you know what you truly deserved, but you will rejoice with gladness and tears of joy when you see what the Lord Jesus endured for you.*

Jesus was forsaken for you: Seen

33 Now when the **sixth hour** had come, there was **darkness over the whole land** until **the ninth hour.**

1. Darkness came over the whole land from 12:00 noon to 3:00PM, as Jesus silently hung on the cross.

This was not a regular eclipse (Eclipses don’t last for 3 hours.) but was **a miracle** of God.

2. This darkness was thick darkness – darkness that could be felt.

3. What is significant about this timing?

At 3:00PM Jesus cried about being forsaken by his Father. He did this because *that was the time when the Jewish daily sacrifice (which pictured Christ's work) was killed and offered for God's people!*

Jesus was the sacrifice! So this great, miraculous sign of darkness confirmed who Jesus was and what he was doing!

This darkness marked the death of the Sun of Righteousness for the sins of the world. *A most notable event.*

4. But there were other things that happened on the cross to show God had forsaken his Son!

According to Matthew, there were earthquakes on the earth and rocks split open, showing God's anger on his Son. (Matthew 27)

The notable impact of earthquakes was commonly used in the Bible to teach God's anger against sin, an anger that was seen and felt, and anger that was unmistakable.

Psalms 18:7 Then the **earth shook and trembled**; The foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry.

Nahum 1:5 The **mountains quake** before Him, The hills melt, And the earth heaves at His presence, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it. 6 Who can stand before His indignation...

But after the earthquake many dead believers were miraculously raised to life, their tombs opened, and they went into Jerusalem to be seen and heard.

Matthew 27:51 ... and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, 52 and the **graves were opened**; and **many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised**; 53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, **they went into the holy city and appeared to many.**

See here the effect of God forsaking his Son: Life came! Death and destruction were replaced by life. God's anger and indignation were satisfied.

5. Lessons:

a. Jesus had to have the greatest love for you, to not only endure the abandonment of his family, his friends, the church leadership, and the civil authorities, but he had to be abandoned by his Father for you.

He made an unmatched sacrifice of love for you. You deserved this punishment.

Let me illustrate: *Parents often try their best for their children.* They endure sleepless nights, go out in the cold and icy roads to work, clean-up after their children, do the laundry, cook, and drive children around – even when they are tired. Sometimes they have to give up a promotion or a career for their children. (If you were adopted, you get this even more!)

But Jesus had to face much more for you than a sacrificing parent. And you know he loved you more because he had to be forsaken by his Father – the one whom he loved - for you.

b. Can you imagine how the Lord Jesus feels when you forsake him and run back to the world – to the one who doesn't care for you?

When you fall into sin...

when you abandon your spouse...

when you don't worship or treat it with contempt or with indifference...

and when you ignore his covenant children?

Reflect on what he has done for you.

c. All of these pictures in the OT of Jesus – as in him being the afternoon sacrifice, picture a rejection of dispensationalism. Man is only saved through Christ...even those who died before.

The blood of bulls and goats could not forgive sins. Only Jesus' blood brings forgiveness before and after he came.

Jesus was forsaken for you: Heard

34 And at the **ninth hour** Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "**Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?**" which is translated, "**My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**"

1. Jesus, having felt the pain of being forsaken, cried out with a loud voice: "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

The loud voice showed he was in **extreme physical, mental, and spiritual pain and agony.**

He would have lost blood at this time.

His muscles would have been aching.

He would have been struggling to breathe.

Was it from the nails in his hands and feet that he cried out aloud?

Yes, but it was much more. His Father turned his face away from him.

2. Why would the Father turn his face from his beloved Son – abandon him?

His Son had the legal position of having man's sin in him!

So the Father could not look at sin. In fact, his Father had to forsake him.

God had to withhold his kind providence from his beloved Son.

In the past, angels helped Jesus – like when he passed the tests when he was tempted with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life after he fasted for 40 days, but not now!

Jesus did not complain about being abandoned, denied, betrayed, spat on, beaten, taunted, stripped naked, and crucified, but when his Father forsook him, it was almost too much to bear.

3. This agonizing cry of being forsaken by his Father was prophesied 1000 years before.

Psalms 22:1 **My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?** Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? 2 O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; And in the night season, and am not silent.

Jesus spoke in the common language, Aramaic. He did this in order for the people **to hear, understand** his agony for them, so they could **appreciate** his work more.

35 Some of those who stood by, when they heard that, said, "**Look, He is calling for Elijah!**" 36 Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink, saying, "Let Him alone; **let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down.**"

4. When some people heard what Jesus said, they mocked him, thinking he was calling for Elijah to take him down from the cross.

Elijah (or one coming in the spirit of Elijah) was promised by God as the Forerunner to Messiah.

Having been convinced Jesus was not the Son of God, and that there could therefore be no Elijah coming, the Jews mocked him. (They should have known Elijah, the Forerunner, John the Baptist, had come, did his work, and was already dead!)

Instead of calling *the dead John the Baptist*, Jesus was calling on his Father.

How ignorant they were! (“**Elijah**” means, “My God is Yahweh.” “**Eloi**” means, “my God.”)

5. Jesus then said he was thirsty and someone gave him some sour wine to drink instead of water.

Jesus needed water...but they would not give it to him.

He did not want wine to numb the pain.

He wanted to bear God’s full wrath.

His own Father did not provide him with anything!

6. Lessons:

a. God the Father forsook his own Son and let him die for you, and the Father had to, for that is what your sins deserved.

Corinthians 5:21 For **He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us,** that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

You could not otherwise be free.

b. But make no mistake about this: Jesus was only rejected by his Father as man.

The Divine **Son of God could never be rejected** or separated from God. That relationship was always intact.

Unity in the Godhead can never be broken.

c. You are able to commend your spirit to God when you are about to die because you have no (or shouldn’t have) fear of death.

But you can only commend your spirit to God and die without fear if your soul has been washed clean by the blood of Jesus.

You have to know where you are going after!

d. According to John, Jesus gave up his life, commending his Spirit to God, and declaring that his work was finished, completing his work for you.

These were the same words many who have died for their faith have cried out,

including Thomas Cranmer. **(Lord Jesus, into your hands I commit my spirit.)**

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "**Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'**" Having said this, He breathed His last.

Jesus had done what had to be done so you could go free. **You can commend your spirit to God because Jesus's work for you is completed!**

e. Don't be surprised that men would say cruel and even mocking things about Jesus. They don't know him. They don't know what he has done. Speak of him so they know.

Ever heard: Who asked him to die for me? I don't need him; I have science? I am good; I don't need someone to die for me.

Tell them! Pity them.

They are blind...and deaf. Help them to see and hear!

Conclusion:

The people **saw Jesus was forsaken** by the incredible things that happened.

The people **heard from Jesus directly he was forsaken.**

He was forsaken for them. There was no doubt about it.

Beloved in Jesus Christ:

1. Knowing what Christ endured for you to bring you spiritual freedom, do you mourn daily for your sins?

Do you confess your sins regularly?

Do you realize how much your sins cost him?

2. Knowing what Christ has done for you, are you learning how to follow him?

Do you read good books to improve your life...to learn how to serve your family...to learn how to work in the church...to learn how to share the Gospel with the lost?

Are you growing strong and more determined?

Is your life a witness of his saving work at your job or in school?

Do people know you are saved?

3. Knowing what Christ has done for you, how well are you worshipping him?

Do you survive (tolerate) worship on Sundays?

Do you struggle to stay awake?

Or do you come eager to hear your Savior speak?

And do you sing with passion to praise his name?

Your passion for worship will show if you know what Jesus has done for you!

Finally: Without Christ's death, all men are heading to hell.

If you don't want to go to hell, ask God to count Christ's death as yours. That is the only thing that will save you!

Do it today.