**Spoken From The Cross – My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**

*Matthew 27:45-50; Mark 15:33-37*

**Introduction**

1. The scene of the cross is sinister. An innocent man is literally nailed to a tree, being put to death out of pure hatred.
2. Yet, the scene of the cross provides spiritual nourishment.
   1. ***“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize” (Hebrews 4:15)***.
   2. ***“For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted” (Hebrews 2:18)***.
3. Jesus uttered words in Matthew 27:46 which are relatable, and helpful in our spiritual endeavors, and pilgrimage on earth.
   1. 6th hour = about noon – darkness.
   2. The darkness had to have been a work of God, being so vast, and in the middle of the day.
   3. **The scene was set. The Creator of all things was being put to death by His creation. Darkness was appropriate.**
4. Yet, in order to benefit from this passage and scene, we must consider the context of scripture entirely, and the context of the quotation of **Psalm 22:1** (What Jesus quoted…).
5. False Interpretation
6. Imputed Sin, and withdrawn fellowship
   1. *“In order that Christ might satisfy for us, it was necessary that he should be placed as a guilty person at the judgment-seat of God”* (Commentary on Matthew 27:44 – Calvin).
   2. **1 John 1:5** – It is morally and doctrinally impossible for God to be in fellowship with sin (**cf. James 1:13**).
      1. **This is where the argument is made. Jesus was made sin, therefore, God could not remain with Him.**
      2. **They even take this into further separation suggesting Jesus went to hell for three days.**
   3. **2 Corinthians 5:21 – Jesus became sin for us. The Calvinist will say that sin was put to His account, and God had to leave Him. Is this consistent with scripture? 🡪**
7. Who is Jesus? (God’s Son. Deity. Godhead.)
   1. **2 Corinthians 4:6** – God’s glory is seen in Jesus. The gospel of Christ reveals the Father to us.
      1. He is the ***“brightness of [God’s] glory and the express image of His person” (Hebrews 1:3)***.
      2. God is revealed to us through Christ. Why? 🡪
   2. **John 1:1-5, 14** – Jesus is God in the flesh!
      1. It would not be possible for Jesus to be separated from the Godhead.
      2. If He is God, He cannot sin. (**Sin is not transferable anyway!) – 1 John 2:2 – He is the propitiation for OUR SINS.** (He paid the price. He did not become guilty.)
      3. **Was Jesus separated from Himself? Of course not!**
8. God is with Jesus!
   1. **John 16:32** – Jesus had confidence in His Father. Was His confidence misplaced?
      1. Looking to His imminent death, Jesus told His disciples they would leave Him.
      2. However, Jesus recognizes that although they will leave, God will be there.
   2. **John 8:28-29** – It does not make sense that God would leave Jesus when He was pleasing God in His actions.
      1. **God’s will was that Jesus would die on the cross for mankind**.
      2. ***“though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered” (Hebrews 5:8)***.
9. Psalm 22 – What Jesus meant
10. Without understanding the greater context of Psalm 22, the first verse by itself seems to be a Psalm of utter despair. However, it begins to take a turn.
11. Feeling of isolation **(v. 1-2)**.
    1. There are times when in great distress we feel lonely.
    2. **Even if we have others with us, or we are in public, we can’t help but feel isolated. (Consider Job – His friends sat with him, but his suffering left him isolated.) Jesus certainly felt this.**
12. Recognition of the past **(v. 3-5)**.
    1. God is immutable. He makes a promise and keeps it. (**cf. Hebrews 6:13-15**).
    2. **No matter how severe Jesus’ situation escalated, He never forgot who His Father was**.
13. Continued pattern **(v. 6-18)**.
    1. **The horrid experience of the cross inevitably led to a feeling of loneliness.**
    2. **Yet, Jesus continues to remember that, despite how bad it gets, God is faithful!**
14. Prayer, declaration of hope, and recognition of future victory (**v. 19-31**).
    1. (**v. 19-21**) – prayer for help. Prayer is answered.
    2. (**v. 22-24**) – Praise to God even in adversity. He did not turn His back.
    3. (**v. 27-31**) – A look beyond the present distress to the future victory.
15. Merely Perceived Loneliness
16. **In times of heartache, suffering, persecution, and other difficulties it is easy to feel lonely. This loneliness must be counteracted by the knowledge of the gospel.**
17. **Hebrews 13:5-6** – In times of hardship and struggle we must not take it upon ourselves to appropriate through covetous means.
    1. Jesus is with us and will provide.
    2. ***“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33)***.
18. **Romans 8:35-39** – Paul suggests (through inspiration) that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of Christ.
    1. The only thing that can is our own sin. Something we can avoid through faithful obedience to Him.
    2. **Christ will not leave us so long as we want Him with us!**
19. **2 Timothy 4:16-18** – In the preaching of the gospel there were occasions where Paul felt lonely.
    1. Jesus was with Paul through his ministry (**cf. 2 Corinthians 12:8-9** – He was strengthened because Christ was with Him.).
    2. ***“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13)***.
20. **Hebrews 12:1-2** – we look to Jesus because, in His suffering, Jesus felt lonely, but looked beyond the suffering and into the victory! We must follow in His footsteps!
21. **Psalm 23** – It is interesting that the following Psalm is one of assurance. God is with us through the darkest parts of our life if we only reach out for Him in faithfulness.

**Conclusion**

1. Jesus experienced the terrors of the cross as a man would, because He was a man Himself.
2. He hung on the tree while people mocked Him and were wholly opposed to Him.
3. However, even in a situation where most would lose trust in God, and assume He is not with them, Jesus understood this not to be true.
4. Jesus certainly had the remainder of the Psalm in mind when He quoted the first verse. He was looking forward to the victory.
   1. The completion of God’s will, and His suffering.
   2. The salvation of mankind, and victory of God’s purpose.