

Mark 15:34-41 (NIV)

33 At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 34 And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

35 When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

36 Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

37 With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

38 The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

39 And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

40 Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. 41 In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

- a. Last time we looked at the crowd

I. The Cry

II. The Council member

I. The Cry

1. Jesus has been on the Cross for 6 hours

a. Last 3 hours in darkness

2. At the end of 3 hours, Jesus cries Eloi, Eloi, Lama Sabachthani?

3. This is a scene that we'll not fully understand until heaven

4. The God of the universe is hanging on a Cross
5. Taking human form, Jesus endures the Cross without complaining or blaming others
 - a. It is not, "Why has Peter forsaken me? Why has Judas betrayed me? (**Spurgeon**)
 - b. My God, my God why have You forsaken me?
 - c. In the grand plan, the Father didn't forsake Jesus
 - d. The Father turned His back for a moment as the sins were placed on His Beloved
 1. Forsaken due to sin
 2. Forsaken to sympathize
 3. Forsaken to show us what hell is like
 4. Forsaken to show me what to do when I go through it

6. Forsaken due to sin

- a. Sin will automatically cut the connection between man & God
- b. It's not His sin, He's sinless
- c. He's bearing all of the guilt of humanity
 - i. All of the sins of humanity are placed on Him

- ii. **Is 53:6** The Lord placed on Him, the iniquity of us all
- d. The days of animal substitutes were ending that day
- e. No longer would man be separated from God due to sin
 - i. He's eradicating this barrier that day
- f. He is afflicted and smitten of God as our Passover Lamb
- g. Isaiah's prophecy is being fulfilled
- h. **Isaiah 53:4-5** Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed
- i. **Transgression** – The Act that goes beyond the law
 - i. Crime, wrongdoing
- j. **Iniquity** – Immoral behavior
 - i. Wickedness, impropriety
- k. **Chastisement** – punished; corrected
- l. As the Passover Lamb dying on Passover, He's paying the price for every sin
 - i. Every wrong act against God
 - ii. Every wrong act against man
 - iii. Jesus was receiving at that moment the full punishment

- iv. Even for those who are ridiculing Him at that moment.
- v. Those that were blaspheming Him by calling Him a blasphemer

7. Forsaken to sympathize

- a. We have a small taste of what that may have been like when we have the sense that God is withdrawn
- b. We feel a temporary or partial desertion by God
- c. Where there may be an absence of His presence and cry out, where is God?
- d. God has never forsaken His children, ever
- e. "I will never leave you or forsake you"
- f. What's fascinating about this cry is that it was not answered.
 - i. There is no "This is my beloved Son..."
 - ii. No ministering angels to ease the pain
 - iii. No light shining from heaven on the beloved
 - iv. He's experiencing what we sometimes experience
 - v. We can face financial challenges

- vi. We can handle physical pain / affliction
- vii. At time, we can muster enough strength to deal with challenging people
- viii. **One thing we have silently been frustrated with is the "Silence of Heaven"**
- ix. He cries with passion and sincerity and there is no response
- x. What do you do when heaven is silent?
- xi. What do you do with unanswered questions?
- xii. How do you handle the long periods of silence?

8. Forsaken to show us what hell is like

- a. He's experiencing a little bit of hell and declaring to the world what hell is like
 - i. **It is separation from God**
- b. It's certainly also a place of eternal torment
- c. A constant nothingness and darkness of an imprisoned soul
 - i. Only has regretful memories to reflect on for all of eternity
- d. That is the result of being separated from God

- e. When God turns his back on a person and leaves them to their chosen sin, nothing is left but absolute darkness
- f. As symbolized by the 3 hours and the 3 days for Pharaoh
- g. If that separation made the Perfect Man cry out in a desperate plea, what will the condition of sinful man be?
- h. Hell is a lonely place not designed for people
- i. People by default chose darkness if they say no to God

9. Forsaken to show me what to do when I go through it

- i. He giving us a pattern to follow

a. Check your heart

i. Check your heart for sin

1. Sin naturally disconnects our link with God
2. If I regard sin in my heart...
3. **1 John 1:8** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
4. How serious does God take sin?
 - a. His own perfect Son is disconnected because of it

ii. Check your heart for fear

1. If I demand God do something or say something, my fear manifests itself into control
2. Fear / control hinders our ability to see or hear from God
3. We cannot be in control
4. He's the boss and I'm the slave

b. He's also referring to the scripture of Psalm 22

1. When you begin to feel like God abandoned you, open the scriptures and pray it through
2. This is the time to wear your Bible thin
3. Cry the earnest cry of My God, My God...

10. They continue mocking Jesus by saying, let's see if Elijah will save Him

11. They offer wine vinegar to possibly delay His death

12. The curtain was rent from top to bottom

- a. The presence of God was always hidden and mysterious from the time the veil was introduced by Moses
- b. That veil symbolized the presence of God in a real and tangible way
- c. In the O.T, there was a reverent distance

- d. The Ark of the covenant was there and the mercy seat
- e. No one could get the holy place unless he was a priest
- f. No one could get into the inner court unless he was the high priest ; only once per year
- g. No light was needed in the most holy place because the presence of God was its light
- h. This covenant / ordnance was designed by God to teach His people to reverence and honor the presence of God
 - i. It's nothing to take for granted or play with
- i. Here, Jesus' death causes the veil to be rent from top to bottom
 - i. **Meaning God is the one who rent the veil**

13. The Father accepted the full payment of sin

14. We now have an invitation by God into His Presence

- a. We no longer need mediation from other people
- b. The body of Jesus was the veil torn on the Cross to give us access to God
- c. **Heb 10:19** Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh

- d. I no longer need a priest or mediator to speak to God on my behalf.
- e. God now welcomes me and beckons me come into His holy presence and have the same level of fellowship that He had with Abraham, Moses, Elijah, and His Beloved Son

f. I'm to approach in boldness

- i. A thief does not have boldness
 - ii. An invited guest does not have boldness
 - iii. A Blood washed child of God who's sins are forgiven and adoption is secure does
- g. A legally adopted child has full rights and access
 - h. It's a new and living way
 - i. New meaning fresh always and ready for all
 - i. Don't stand outside in fear
 - j. Approach Him with the boldness of His invitation
 - i. Approach when you're feeling good
 - ii. Approach Him when sin has gotten the best of you
 - k. Because of the precious body and blood of our Lord, draw near
 - l. This scene of the Cross and the events around the Cross caused the Roman soldier to say:

m. Surely this was the Son of God!