

Psalm 22:11-21 - The Song of the Cross: Delivered Over

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church – Sunday, March 10, 2024 AM

Context:

- Psalms are songs and Psalm 22 is a song of lament
- The opening line of this psalm is quoted by Christ on the cross: “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?...”
- The depth of connection between Christ and this song (psalm) goes deeper than the first line.

Last Time: **Psalm 22:1-11** - Forsaken

The greatest relationship of all was ruptured as Christ took our sin and was forsaken by His Father and men so we might never be forsaken.

The Pattern of Lament

Biblically process your grief and anguish through the language of lament.

1. **Keep Turning to Prayer (Psalm 22): Turn**
2. **Bring Your Complaints to God (Psalm 22:1): Complain**
Complaint gives voice to our hard questions.
3. **Ask Boldly (Psalm 22:11): Ask**
This is calling upon God to act in accordance with His character. (Psalm 22:3-5,9-10)
David recounts the Lord’s faithfulness before bringing this new petition.
4. **Choose to Believe (Psalm 22:22-24): Trust**
Suffering refines what we trust in and how we talk about it.

Psalm 22:11-21 – Christ is delivered over to the hour of darkness.

Lk 22:53 ... *but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.* **This is Satan’s finest hour: this is who he is & what he does.**

We must simultaneously hold love and justice as we view the cross.

Surrounded

Ps 22:11-13 *Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.* ¹² *Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round.* ¹³ *They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.*

Verse 11 is an important link to this next section.

- None to help: forsaken (last week’s message)
- Trouble is near: what lies ahead. **What trouble is near?**

Bulls and Lions

- He is surrounded by many bulls. **Bulls are large, can trample you with feet and impale you with horns.**
- Bashan – a fertile plateau NE of the Sea of Galilee (Golan Heights). **Animals grew large here.**
The picture is of large bulls turned inward, horns pointing, and surrounding an individual.
- Their mouths are like lions. **Apex predators, fierce and deadly.**
- Ravening – tearing. **They are roaring (intimidating) and tearing (destroying).**

Christ Surrounded

Matt 26:57-60,65-68 – Christ before the High Priest, scribes and elders

They sought false witnesses against Him. It didn’t matter what He said.

Facts were not going to get in the way of their murderous intent to tear Him to pieces.

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Brought to Death

Ps 22:14-15 *I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: My heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. ¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.*

What does it mean to be “poured out like water?”

2 Sam 14:14 *For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again...*

He describes the condition of His body (bones all out of joint) and complete emotional brokenness.

Matt 26:38 *Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.*

He longed for nearness, for some kind of comfort and none was given by anyone.

Apart from a miracle, the damage done to Christ was irreparable.

Dry as Dust

- Potsherd – a broken piece of pottery, scorched clay
- Tongue cleaves – His moisture is completely dried up
- The Dust of Death – Man was made from the dust of the earth before God breathed life into him

Gen 3:19 *In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. This is the language of the curse for **OUR SIN.***

This dryness pictures the life being drained from Him as He hangs upon the cross. We will come back to this.

Delivered to Dogs

Ps 22:16 *For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.*

Dogs – unclean animals. **They traveled in packs and were scavengers, eating unclean things.**

To the Jewish mind, the dogs represented the Gentiles.

Mark 15:16-20 – Jesus delivered over to the battalion.

“the whole band” – A Roman battalion, about 600 men

Their treatment of Christ is vile and despicable and when they were done, they “pierced His hands and feet.”

Plundered and Shamed

Ps 22:17-18 *I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. ¹⁸ They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.*

What happened to His clothing?

John 19:23-24 *When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, “They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” So the soldiers did these things, (ESV)*

- The soldiers responsible for the execution got to divvy up the victim’s possessions.
- Clothing was much more of a valued commodity back then.

The casting of lots (a game of chance) was used to decide who got the best garment. This was all He possessed.

Illus: Like vultures circling

What was Christ wearing?

- The origin of clothing is traced back to the Garden of Eden and is tied to shame over sin.
- The dividing up of His clothes, the language of Psalm 22 (all my bones can be seen) and ancient crucifixion practices indicate that Jesus was completely naked as He hung upon the cross. **This was not His choice.**

He took the sin of the world with all of its shame exposed. Luke 23:35 *And the people stood looking on.... (NKJV)*

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Heard Upon the Horns

Ps 22:19-21 *But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me.* ²⁰ *Deliver my soul from the sword; My darling from the power of the dog.* ²¹ *Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.*

My darling – “my only one”, my precious life

Unicorns – (Latin term for beast with a horn) wild oxen

Notice the summary request:

1. **Be Near (Forsaken)**
2. **Deliver my life from the sword (instrument of death: cross); Dog; Lion; Oxen (Bulls of Bashan).**

Christ was forsaken and delivered over and He is crying for deliverance.

Notice the turn at the end of verse 21. “... You have rescued Me from the horns of the wild oxen.” (ESV)

Deliverance has come, but not without great cost.

Jn 19:28-30 *After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

- He was obedient and loving toward His Father to the end.
- He had suffered sufficiently and only death remained.
- He Thirsted.
 - To our knowledge, no food or drink since the Last Supper.
 - Sweating and bleeding since the Garden.
He had been brought into the dust of death.
 - He experienced a hellish torture for the sins of mankind.
Luke 16:24 *And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.*
 - The Scriptures remained upon His mind and He fulfilled the last one.

Lk 23:46 *And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.*

He was rescued upon the horns of the oxen, as He committed His Spirit into the hands of His Father.

Do you thirst for Him?