

Forsaken

Sermon 94 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 27:45-49

I. Darkness over the Land -- Matthew 27:45-46

This unusual occurrence is mentioned in all 3 synoptic gospels.

Amos 8:9 -- And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day:

A. Through this darkness, God was speaking to man

In the Scriptures – light is compared with Truth, Justice and God’s Kingdom – while darkness symbolizes just the opposite.

B. By this Darkness, God was hiding Christ from the Eyes of Man

Alan Cole “Here is the heart of the cross; here is the mystery which no painting or sculpture, with distorted face, can ever begin to show, because we fail to realize the true nature of the punishment for sin ... and ... the true nature of the agony borne by Him.

William Hendricksen “The darkness meant judgment, the judgment of God upon our sins. His wrath as it were burning itself out in the very heart of Jesus, so that he, as our Substitute, suffered most intense agony, indescribable woe, terrible isolation or forsakenness, Hell came to Calvary that day, and the Savior descended into it and bore its horrors in our stead.”

Isaiah 53:3-6 -- Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows;

Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 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.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way;

And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

II. My God, My God, why hast Thou Forsaken Me? Matt 27:44-45

A. His cry was the final cry of the Horror

He had gone as far down as He could go in bearing God’s wrath.

B. His cry was the cry of Abandonment

John Calvin -- “Jesus expressed this horror of great darkness, this God-forsakenness, by quoting the only verse of Scripture which actually described it, and which he had perfectly fulfilled.”

C. His cry must be understood in another Way.

There is a sense that we must admit that God was still with him.

Cranfield, “It is theologically important to maintain the paradox that, while this God-forsakenness was utterly real, the unity of the blessed Trinity was even then unbroken.”

D. The Experience of Psalm 22

Note: My God, My God – it is a prayer!

As much as our Lord knew the horror of Psalm 22 –he also knew the victory Of Psalm 22:21. “You have answered me.”

Psalm 22:22-31 – In prophetic language – this is what the Lord knew.
The horrors of Hell were past.
Now, all that was left – was His necessary death.

IV. Sinners are Blind, Living in their own Darkness – Matt. 27:47-49

The darkness now over, the darkness of the sinful human heart remained. The religious leaders once more took to mocking Jesus – purposely obscuring the very agonized words of our Savior, taken from the very Scriptures they knew so well.