

Sermon Title: Last Words of Jesus: My God, why have you forsaken me?

Over the last few weeks, Pastor Dan has had us mentally picture the scene of Jesus's crucifixion from different perspectives:

- Jesus on the cross forgiving people
- The thief being told that he will be in paradise today
- Mary watching her son be tortured and killed.
- Today we will look at it from God's perspective

I want you to think back in your own life and **try to remember a time that you felt abandoned.**

- I think that human beings never feel worse than when they feel abandoned.
- **Gen 2:18**

Matthew 27:45-54

This passage is full of Old Testament quotes and allusions:

- The sky turns dark – The Exodus, Amos 8:9
- Psalm 22
- The veil of the Holy of Holies is torn giving people access to God
- An earthquake shows God's power

After all of these signs, the men that actually executed Jesus by nailing him to the cross made a very simple profession of faith, "truly this was the Son of God." That statement is **the reason that Matthew wrote his gospel, to let everyone reading it know that this Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah, the true Son of God.**

So why do we think that Jesus said those exact words?

- Forsaken means to renounce or turn away from entirely
- Let's think about the relationship between God the Father and Jesus the Son –
 - **It started at creation, when God said let us make man in our image, after our likeness.**
 - God and Jesus, along with the Holy Spirit, have been connected since before the beginning of the earth.
- **But at that moment, God placed the sin of the entire world upon the shoulders of his only begotten Son, and since God is perfect and holy and cannot be around sin, for the first time in Jesus's existence, he was truly alone.**
- Take a second and think about what Jesus was experiencing at that moment.

- But also take a second and think about what God the Father was experiencing at that time.
- I can't even imagine what God felt at that time, but that feeling for us kind of makes John 3:16 a little bit more impactful.

Why did Jesus have to go through this?

- HC 40 - is Because God's justice and truth require it: nothing else could pay for our sins except the death of the Son of God.
- **Sin has always been the problem!**
- The Law couldn't fix that problem, prophets couldn't fix the problem, sacrifices couldn't fix the problem, so God fixed it for us by sending Jesus to earth to show us how to live, and to endure this moment to take on our sin.

What does this passage mean for us today?

1. All of the signs and wonders that took place in our passage show us that God was still in power even at that moment.
2. Second, **this passage teaches us how this short moment was necessary in God's big plan.** We must remember that the story doesn't end with these words from Jesus.
 - a. I have to believe that Jesus knew that his momentary separation from God the Father and the Holy Spirit would be worth it for so many believers for centuries.
3. Jesus chose to go to the cross, to be abandoned and alone for the first time in his existence, **so that we will never have to experience that. Matt 28:19-20.**

In 2023 the US surgeon general published a paper that said the new epidemic in our country is loneliness.

- The Bible tells us the only solution to the epidemic is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ! Josh 1:9, Gal 2:20, Rom 8

Challenges:

1. To read the daily Lenten devotionals
2. Be on the lookout for someone in your life that might be feeling lonely, anxious, or abandoned right now.
 - a. If you are lonely, reach out to a friend and talk to them.
3. **Re-read through Psalm 22 this week, but remember that the story for Jesus doesn't end on the cross.**

Forsaken by Aaron Shust

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Scripture passages to go up on the Screen:

Genesis 2:18 - It is not good that the man should be alone

Matthew 27:45-54 - ⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.” ⁴⁸ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. ⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son^[i] of God!”

Matthew 28:19-20 - 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.