

### 3-24-24 Forsaken (Good Friday)

**Psalm 22:1-31; Mark 15:33-39.**

**Big Idea of the Message:** Jesus went to the cross for us.

**Application Point:** For those who have accepted Jesus's gift of salvation, pausing to remember his immense sacrifice is necessary.

How many weeks until Easter? (Next week!)

Today we celebrate Palm Sunday. The day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. The crowds of people threw down palm branches and professed Jesus as the coming Messiah. To only days later be crying out to have Jesus crucified.

So, rather than a Palm Sunday message, I am bringing a Good Friday message. This Lord's Day is the beginning of the celebration of the passion week. The last week of Jesus' human life.

**Read Mark 15:33-39.**

**“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”**

That is something, a feeling that believers, followers of Christ will never know.

**Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you. Hebrews 13:5**

God knew He would hear them. He inspired David to write them in **Psalm 22** some 400 years before the crucifixion. But to hear those agonizing words from the parched lips of His only begotten Son as He hanged dying upon the cross for something He didn't do and knowing that He had the power to stop it at any time, must have been the most difficult event the Father ever witnessed!

As parents we never want to see our children hurt. Undoubtedly these words pierced the heart of the Father.

When our children hurt, we hurt. No loving parent will sit idly by and watch their children get hurt without trying to stop it. Yet, if my understanding is correct when Jesus cried out: **“My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?”** The Father was turning His back on His dying Son. He could stop it, but He didn't!

In **Psalm 22** David describes crucifixion, although he had never witnessed one. Crucifixion was a Roman's invention. (Listen carefully as I read and imagine what Jesus went through on the cross.)

**Read Psalm 22.**

This prophecy describes Jesus crying out for His Father to save Him, and He doesn't! God had saved others who cried out unto Him, but not His own Son. The people mock because God refuses to rescue Him. Why would a loving father do such a thing?

The cross of Jesus reveals two attitudes about God that we need to understand before we can fully appreciate what Jesus did for us at Golgotha.

## **1. THE CROSS REVEALS THAT GOD HATES SIN.**

- Jesus died a humiliating and painful death on the cross for one reason...yours and my **SIN** put Him there.
- Jesus was **SINLESS** until He hung upon the cross, and our **SIN** became His **SIN**.

**who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose [g]stripes you were healed. 1 Peter 2:24**

**For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21**

- Our disobedience, our lies, our immorality, our hatred, our gossip, our envy, every **SIN** we committed in the past and will commit in the future nailed Jesus to the cross.
- Jesus cried out from the darkness, **“My God. My God. Why have you forsaken me?”** because **YOU** and **ME** and a **WORLD** of people just like us.

**But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. Isaiah 59:2**

**This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5**

- God has nothing to do with darkness, sin, evil and wickedness. He cannot fellowship it. He cannot be part of it. Where there is darkness/sin God will not be there.
- If God is to have anything to do with us, He must **EXPOSE** our **DARKNESS**.

**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23**

**For the wages of sin is death, but the [h]gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23**

- Because of our **SIN**, whether great or small, we are deserving of death. The reason we deserve death is because God, being **HOLY**, cannot allow the deeds of darkness go unpunished.
- Periodically, something happens to stab us awake to sin’s hideousness.
- Yet, the ugliness of each of these atrocities do not even minutely compare to the cross of Christ.
- At Calvary, God’s best gift was smashed by human cruelty.
- There, the finest example of human life ever modeled was violated and abused by sinful men. Jesus’ highest kindness and deepest goodness were repaid with violence and hostility.
- And God watched the torture of His Son unfold without doing anything to stop it.
- Why? Because Jesus became **SIN** and God cannot be where **SIN** is!
- Jesus cried out to His Father when He needed Him most, and God refused to help because of His hatred and judgement of **SIN**.
- Sin cannot go unpunished. God has revealed that throughout the Bible. The sinful must die, even when its imputed **SIN** placed in the body of the Only Begotten Son of God.

## 2. THE CROSS REVEALS THAT GOD LOVES THE SINNER.

- The choice that God made because of **SIN**, as difficult as it is, was to **KILL** His Son and let us go free! (Pause...)

**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16**

**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8**

**In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:9-10**

- God loves sinners! He loves liars, He loves homosexuals, He loves adulterers, He loves cheaters, He loves gossipers. He doesn't love their sinful deeds, and those deeds had to be punished. But instead of killing us, which we deserve, He sent Jesus to the cross taking our place.
- Again, Paul said, **"God made 'Jesus' who knew no sin to be sin for us . . ."** He allowed His only Son to be **SIN** on our behalf. Jesus was executed for **YOU** and **ME** so that we can live forever.
- Do we understand what it means to have someone die in our place?
- I am a sinner held prisoner by Satan, and the **"WAGES of SIN is DEATH."** My name has been called, and so has yours. We are all sinners deserving to die. Jesus leaves heaven and comes to this earth as a man living under the law, keeping its rules and regulations perfectly. He lives a **SINLESS** life. He comes under no penalty of death. He owes the law nothing!
- But Jesus breaks rank, raises His hand and says, "Father, pick me! Let me die in Fred's place (in Cecil's place . . . in Kim's place . . . in Jack's place . . . in Ron's place)." And if you were the only person on this earth who committed sin; if everyone around you lived a perfect life except you, Jesus would still raise His hand and say, "Let me take their place!" "Let me die for them!"
- Because of God's great love, He substituted His only begotten Son for YOU and ME!
- He watched in silence while they ripped the meat off His Son's back with a whip-like instrument called a cat-of-nine-tails and embedded a crown of thorns into His skull.
- He heard the insults. He witnessed the humiliation. He saw the pain on His Son's face as they laid Jesus on the cross and nailed 9-inch roman spikes into His hands and feet.
- The deafening cries of His Son, **"My God! My God! Why have you FORSAKEN me?"** rang throughout the heavens. While heavens angels stood at the ready to save their God. Yet, God did nothing to stop it because someone had to pay for the **SINS** that you and I committed, but instead of us God let it be His SON!
- When Jesus was nailed to the cross, our sins were nailed there too. But do we fully grasp what it means to have our sins nailed to the cross?
- We have placed on stage today an old, rugged cross as an object lesson to help us to better understand the great sacrifice of our Lord and the forgiveness available to us through the cross of Jesus.
- I would like to have some people hand out sheets of paper. (If they didn't already get one at the beginning of the service.

**who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose [g]stripes you were healed. 1 Peter 2:24**

- I would like for you to take that sheet of paper and write some of your **SINS** that you struggle with most on the cross. (LYING, GOSSIPING, PRIDE, LUST, ANGER, SEXUAL SINS, (If this makes you feel uncomfortable, just write across the CROSS the words: MY SIN!))
- While Heather plays the piano, if you feel comfortable doing so, I would like for you to walk up to the cross and place your paper on the cross.
- This is only an object lesson to help us better understand what God and Jesus did for us because of their great love!
- This is not an invitation song, but just an opportunity for you to symbolically nail your **SINS** to the cross as a reminder of what Jesus did for you over 2,000 years ago.
- I will begin and if anyone wants to participate, you can follow.

### **Conclusion**

Look at all the sin we have placed on this cross. From one church, one service.

My next question is do you know Jesus personally?

Have you placed your life in His hands?

Have you submitted your will to His?

Have you repented, recognized that you have sin and turned the other direction?