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THE SAYINGS

Sermon Notes

VINTAGE  PRESS

The Sayings: Sermon Notes

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WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

Jesus experienced abandonment so you won't have to.

³³And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." ³⁶And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Mark 15:33–39

JESUS FELT ABANDONMENT

³⁴"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Mark 15:34b

WHAT WAS PHYSICALLY HAPPENING?

- Jesus had been on the cross for 3 hours (i.e., 9a–12p)
- For another 3 hours, there was darkness (i.e., 12–3p)

The darkness of the sun marks a critical moment in history and emphasizes the eschatological and cosmic dimensions of Jesus' sufferings upon the cross.

William Lane, *New International Commentary on the New Testament*, 571

WHAT WAS SPIRITUALLY HAPPENING?

- Jesus was bearing the sin of humanity
- Jesus was experiencing the wrath of God

¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree."

Galatians 3:13

²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

- Jesus felt abandoned by God

WE FEEL ABANDONMENT

In hearing his cry on the cross, no believer is in a position to object that his own hour of darkness is darker than the dark hour of God the incarnate Son.

Thomas Oden, *Classic Christianity*, 395

JESUS LAMENTED

³⁴*"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

Mark 15:34b

- Lament

An honest and expected expression of our battle with the brokenness of ourselves and the rest of the world.

Kelly Kapic, *Embodied Hope*, 29

WE LAMENT

In whatever anguish, however vile, the believer thus can recall that he is crying out in companionship with One who also experienced utter human abandonment and who continued nonetheless to pray to the heavenly Father.

Thomas Oden, *Classic Christianity*, 395–396

JESUS TRUSTED GOD

These are words of suffering and struggle, but "not the words of a desperate spirit; so all the voice of faith rings at the same time in his utterance, while he called God his God and perseveres in prayer."

Church Father, Irenaeus

IN THE MIDST OF FEELING ABANDONMENT, WHAT DOES JESUS DO?

- He prays
- He quotes Scripture
- He calls God "My God"

PSALM 22—DID JESUS HAVE THE WHOLE PSALM IN MIND?

- v. 1–2: Cry for Help
- v. 3–5: Declaration of Confidence based on Israel's trust

- v. 6–8: Description of Distress
 - v. 9–11: Declaration of Confidence based on Past Protection
- v. 12–18: Description of Distress
 - v. 19–21a: Plea to God for Rescue
 - v. 21b: Declaration of God's Intervention
 - v. 22–25: Assurance of Being Heard
- v. 26–31: Sharing of a Meal in the House of the Lord

WE TRUST GOD

JESUS WAS VINDICATED

³⁷And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Mark 15:37–39

JESUS WAS VINDICATED BY

- The Temple Curtain tearing
- The Centurion's confession
- The Resurrection

³¹And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²And he said this plainly.

Mark 8:31–32a

By using Psalm 22, Jesus chose to complain stridently about his suffering and tragedy but to look beyond it to express his faith in the God who vindicates the righteous.

David Garland, *NIV Application Commentary*, 602

WE WILL BE VINDICATED

- In Christ, God will never abandon you
- Even when you feel abandoned, God has not left you

- Jesus' resurrection not only vindicates him but vindicates us

PSALM 22

- ¹*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?*
- ²*O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.*
- ³*Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.*
- ⁴*In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.*
- ⁵*To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.*
- ⁶*But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.*
- ⁷*All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;*
- ⁸*"He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"*
- ⁹*Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.*
- ¹⁰*On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.*
- ¹¹*Be not far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.*
- ¹²*Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;*
- ¹³*they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.*
- ¹⁴*I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;*
- ¹⁵*my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.*
- ¹⁶*For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—*

¹⁷*I can count all my bones—*

they stare and gloat over me;

¹⁸*they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.*

¹⁹*But you, O LORD, do not be far off!*

O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

²⁰*Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!*

²¹*Save me from the mouth of the lion!*

You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

²²*I will tell of your name to my brothers;*

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

²³*You who fear the LORD, praise him!*

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,

and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴*For he has not despised or abhorred*

the affliction of the afflicted,

and he has not hidden his face from him,

but has heard, when he cried to him.

²⁵*From you comes my praise in the great congregation;*

my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

²⁶*The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;*

those who seek him shall praise the LORD!

May your hearts live forever!

²⁷*All the ends of the earth shall remember*

and turn to the LORD,

and all the families of the nations

shall worship before you.

²⁸*For kingship belongs to the LORD,*

and he rules over the nations.

²⁹*All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;*

before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,

even the one who could not keep himself alive.

³⁰*Posterity shall serve him;*

it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

³¹*they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,*

that he has done it.

Psalm 22

Jesus experienced abandonment so you won't have to. Lament. Turn to Community. Trust God.