

The Lord's Day Morning

April 2, 1950

**“My God, My God, Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me”  
Psalm 22:1-9; Matthew 27:46**

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Scripture Lesson: Matthew 27:45-51

Text: Matthew 27:46; Psalm 22:1-9

Introduction:

1. The crucifixion of Christ was the most extraordinary event that has ever taken place on the earth.
  - a. An innocent one crucified
  - b. Guiltless should be persecuted
  - c. That a benefactor should be cruelly put to death
  - d. The only Son of God, Creator of the heavens and the earth should be done to death on a wooden cross
  - e. None can fully understand
2. Equally as mysterious are the words we are considering as a text this morning.
  - a. Forsaken is one of the most tragic words in any language
    1. Man forsaken of friends
    2. Wife forsaken of husband
    3. Children forsaken of parents
  - b. But here is one calling upon God and asking why He has forsaken Him
    1. He had always dwelt in presence of God
    2. Shared glory before world was
    3. During 33 years on earth had had an unbroken fellowship
    4. Never the slightest thought of any lack of harmony
    5. Now this cry
3. Words of unequalled pathos
  - a. He had been silent of any abuse or suffering until now
    1. Soldiers mocked Him
    2. Been beaten
    3. Been spat upon
    4. Forsaken of all
    5. Nailed to a cross
  - b. Now cries out not because of physical suffering but agony of the soul
4. These are words of deepest mystery
  - a. None have fully understood
  - b. Most writers evade commenting much about it
  - c. The full meaning is hidden deep in the heart of God and His Son Jesus Christ

5. But let me very humbly and very reverently suggest some things about these words.

I. The key to the understanding is surely to be found in the fact that according to 2 Corinthians 5:21 Christ was being made sin for us.

1. Literally He was being made a sin offering for us
2. When we turn to Leviticus 4, we find the law of a sin offering
  - a. Verse 3 – must be without blemish
  - b. Verse 4 – sins are laid upon offering
    1. Placing of hands
  - c. Verses 5, 6 – blood must be shed
3. If Christ was going to be our sin offering then He must be ...
  - a. Innocent
  - b. He must be counted as a sinner
  - c. He must die (i.e., shed his blood)
4. Sin brings three things
  - a. Suffering
  - b. Separation from God
  - c. Death

II. We see here then the awfulness of sin and its wages

1. We see here the character of sin
  - a. All veneer and camouflage removed
  - b. The ingratitude of the human heart
    1. Christ had gone about doing good
    2. Healed
    3. Fed
    4. Comforted
  - c. Hatred of any one who interfered with their way
    1. Christ demanded a spiritual relationship to God
    2. Not mere formality
    3. They hated Him for this
  - d. We see here sins hatred of righteousness
2. We see here too the results of sin
  - a. Wages of sin is death
  - b. Not ghastly pallor which comes from ceasing of blood to circulate
  - c. Not dread silence which comes from inability of tongue to move
  - d. Death is separation from God
    1. Adam and Eve driven out from His presence
    2. Cain (Genesis 4:14) driven out from face of God
    3. Veil separating between sinful man and God
3. Here then at least we approach the meaning of these words
  - a. Christ was separated from God
  - b. Psalm 22:1-6
    1. Heard all others
    2. But not hear Him because He was bearing sin of world
  - c. He was paying penalty for our sins

- III. See here justice of God
1. Sin must be punished
  2. Son was bearing it
    - a. He would not have sin transferred to Him without also bearing penalty
    - b. Page 22 “Severn Saying of the Savior on the Cross” – A.W. Pink
  3. Justice of God must be met for God to be God and to have any moral law in the universe

- IV. Here we behold the love of God for a lost world
1. God so loved that He gave His only begotten Son, etc.
  2. We can be sure of love of God
    - a. Not blazoned in sky
    - b. But gave His Son
  3. You can be sure of His love
    - a. You who have sinned
      1. God loves
  4. You can be sure of His forgiveness
    - a. Christ died for you and me

Conclusion:

1. I do not pretend to understand
  - a. The full meaning of these mysterious words
2. I know they mean
  - a. Lord is just and sin must be punished
  - b. I know they mean Christ met the full demands of the justice of God
  - c. I know because He died on the cross for me I can be saved from the penalty of sin