

## **“MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME”**

Mark 15:34

INTRO: Write out Mark 15:34.

### **I. WORDS FROM THE CROSS**

There were seven utterances. Jesus had been nailed to the cross. The horrible crucifixion, with the extreme suffering of pain, was about to drive life from the body of our Savior. When he was born into this world there was an extraordinary illumination. A star brightly announced the birth of the Son of God. Now an extraordinary darkness signals his death. From nine in the morning when Jesus was nailed to the cross until noon the sun did shine, but from the sixth hour to the ninth hour there was extreme darkness upon the earth. It was about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, very shortly before he died, that his voice pierced the darkness: “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

- A. Jesus quotes from Psa. 22:1. This great psalm prophesied the suffering of the Savior. He was going to fulfill what God had spoken concerning the seed of women in Gen. 3:15. Satan was about to bruise the heel of the seed of woman. Jesus was about to die. Thanks be to God He was raised from the dead to deal a deathblow to the head of the serpent. It was a bodily defeat, but a soul victory for Jesus. By quoting from Psa. 22:1, Jesus identifies Himself as the one that would suffer death to heal man of sin.
- B. “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?” This cry came from a man—a man who was tempted in all points as we are and yet He never sinned a single time. Heb. 4:15. This proves the humanity of Jesus. He came to earth to be sacrificed for sin. He did not count being equal with God a thing to be held to. He emptied himself. He shed that position with God and became a servant and a man. He was human and divine. Phil. 2:5-11.

### **II. WHY DID JESUS FEEL FORSAKEN OF GOD?**

- A. Jesus knew that he came to earth to suffer and die to make atonement for sin. Yet, when facing that death in Gethsemane, He prayed “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass away from me; nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.” Matt. 26:39. He prayed a second time (Matt. 26:42) and then left again (Matt. 26:44). It is evident that the cup did not pass away. Did that mean God forsook Jesus? By no means! Jesus did his Father's will. The will of God was a sacrifice for sin. That is why God gave his Son. John 3:16.
- B. What caused Jesus to feel forsaken?
  - 1. The horrible beating, the bodily pain of the cross, the reviling of his enemies while on the cross, and the loneliness of the righteous one might cause a person to address God as if he was forsaken.
  - 2. Some have thought, and it is only man's thinking, that God may have withheld a special power to endure this suffering and thus Jesus may have felt forsaken. There is no evidence for such a conclusion.

- C. No one knows for sure why Jesus made this statement!
  - D. God never forsakes us! In time of great suffering or trials, we might feel forsaken, but God is omnipresent. He is everywhere. He is near us.
- CONCL: In the agonizing death of our Savior, in the torture of the man Jesus, it is possible that His humanity cried out at the point of death. In that crying He may have felt forsaken, or it just may be at His nearness to death, He knew the description of the death of the Messiah described in Psalms 22. Knowing that his enemies were acquainted with this passage, they could understand that He fulfilled that very prophecy. Thank God Jesus died and rose again. Those who have faith in Him should repent and be baptized for remission of sins. Thank God for the great sacrifice and His words from the cross.