

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

The Self-Sacrificing Savior

Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34

I. The Circumstances of this utterance by the Lord Jesus

- A. He is hanging on the cross.
- B. A miraculous darkness had come upon all the land from noon till 3:00 p.m., making daylight seem like a dark night. Matt.27:45

II. The Meaning of the word “forsaken”.

- A. Stated: to *deliberately leave someone withdrawing your assistance from them.*
- B. Derived from the intensified form of the Greek word “leipo”, which means “to leave”.
 1. Indicating that the leaving is more than just a casual, routine leaving, but a **deliberate leaving for a reason**. Ex.: 2 Tim.4:10
 2. Indicating a **withdrawal of assistance**. Ex.: 2 Tim.4:9, 10

III. The Agony of the Lord Jesus indicated by the word “forsaken”.

- A. The Cry generally considered – This was the Savior’s **chief conflict and harder than** all the tortures He had endured up to that moment.
- B. “forsaken” indicates a **withdrawal of assistance**.
 1. What **WAS NOT** withdrawn from Christ?
 - a. His **union** with the Father – the fulness of the Godhead was still bodily in Christ Jesus (Col.2:9).
 - b. His Father’s **love** to Him (Jn.8:29; 10:17)
 2. What **WAS** withdrawn from Christ? It was the **immeasurable comfort** that comes from **sensing that the Father’s divine presence and favor is upon you**.
 - a. The significance of such comfort is set forth in Ps.23:4
 - b. BUT NOW Christ Jesus feels Himself in some measure estranged from God the Father – He senses the withdrawal of assistance from the Father
 - c. **YET behold the glorious strength of the Savior’s unassisted love and commitment to God the Father !!** That even at such a time of some measure of estrangement and felt withdrawal of the Father’s presence and favor, the cry of the Savior is, “My God, My God...”
 - d. Application: How every believer in Christ Jesus should **imitate their Savior!** – to trust in the Lord God at such seasons and stay their hearts and minds on their God, even though they sense their heavenly Father withdrawing His divine presence and favor from them. See Heb.4:15, 16

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C. “forsaken” indicates a *deliberate leaving for a reason*. Consider 4 reasons the Bible gives for God, the Father, deliberately leaving His only begotten Son without a sense of His divine presence and favor, and leaving His Son with a sense of His divine judgment and wrath:

1. Because the Lord Jesus **was made to be sin** for His elect people, 2 Cor.5:21 “For He (God the Father) made Him (God the Son) who knew no sin *to be sin for us*, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” See Isa.53:4, 5
2. Because the Lord Jesus **was made a curse** for His elect people, Gal.3:13 “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, *having become a curse for us...*” Gal.3:10; Jas.2:10
3. Because the Lord Jesus **was the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world**, Rev.13:8; I Pet.1:18, 19 “*knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver and gold, ...but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*”
4. Because the Lord Jesus **was the manifestation of the Father’s love for His elect people**, I Jn.4:9,10 “*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.*”

D. Consider the reasons why God, the Son, voluntarily endured this greatest of all agonies:

1. Because of His infinite **love** for God, the Father, Jn.4:32, 34; 8:29b; Matt.26:39
2. Because of His infinite **love** for His elect people, Heb.12:2

IV. Applications

A. To Believers: **Be conformed to the image of Christ!** *Be self-sacrificing in the way you live your life for God’s glory* – loving Him because He first loved you; giving yourself for Him, as He gave Himself for you. Eph.5:1, 2; Rom.12:1

➤ A Word of Encouragement to True Believers: God has given you **this exceedingly great and precious promise** found in Heb.13:5b, “*...I will never leave you nor forsake you.*”

B. A Word of Warning to the Unsaved (unconverted): Those who die forsaking God, will find themselves forsaken by God; that is, God will deliberately leave them, withdrawing His **free offer** of **salvation** through the Lord Jesus Christ and leaving them to face the horror of God’s everlasting **judgment** and **wrath**. Such people will cry out on the Day of Judgment, but their cry will be too late! “*...Behold now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation.*” (2 Cor.6:2b)

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