

Remnant Life Church
April 7, 2019
Words Spoken from the Cross
Pt. 2
Matt 27:46; Mark 15:34

- Father, forgive them, for they don't what they are doing.
- The magnitude of what He was saying in light of what He was enduring
- Not only for those present that day but for you and for me

The Seven words spoken from the cross

1. *Father forgive them...* (Lk 23:34)
2. *Truly I say to you today you will be with me in paradise* (Lk 23:43)
3. *Woman, here is your son; this is your mother* (John 19:26-27)
4. *My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?* (Matt 27:46; Mark 15:34)

READ – Mark 15:33-40

- The words Jesus speaks here have more depth than his crying out like the thousands before Him who had done the same
 - First, as He so often did when speaking to people, Jesus was quoting a passage from the Old Testament
 - Jesus' words from the OT
 - When Jesus was dealing with the temptations of satan in the wilderness, He quoted Deut 6:13, 16; 8:3
 - Throughout the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5 Jesus quotes Ex, Lev, Num, and Deut 12 times
 - He quotes Malachi, Hosea, Genesis, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Joshua, and Daniel
 - Through the four Gospels, Jesus is recorded quoting from the Old Testament nearly 80 times
 - Psalms 22:1 - *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?*
 - But listen to what else the psalmist writes
 - And these words were written 1000 years prior
 - The concept of crucifixion was not even invented until the Phoenicians did several hundred years after David
 - The Romans did not adopt and perfect it until hundreds of years later still
 - Listen to how the words so accurately describe what Jesus endured

- **22:16-18** - *Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.*
 - These words mean that, in His death on the cross, Jesus fulfilled yet another prophecy about His life adding further proof to His claim of who He was and still is – the Son of God
 - Jesus understood fully the power of Scripture
- Second, the words Jesus speaks connect to the prayer He prayed in the Garden the previous night
 - **Luke 22** tells of Jesus praying in the Garden and the intensity of His anguish

READ – Luke 22:39-44

- Can be interpreted as sweating so profusely that it appeared to be like blood dropping on the ground from an open wound
 - But there is also the literal translation that involved actual drops of blood coming out where there is no wound
 - Hematidrosis – the medical name for the condition of sweating blood
 - The capillaries near the surface of the skin that feed the sweat glands rupture
 - Most often during times of extremely intense physical or emotional stress
 - Jesus knew the incredible physical pain He was about to endure
 - But there was another pain that I certainly believe Jesus dreaded even more, causing Him to ask His Father for another option
 - The agony of the impending separation
- This moment is one that cannot be comprehended, understood, or explained by man’s finite and very limited capacities
 - God cannot be in the presence of sin – His Holiness will not permit it
 - **Habak 1:13** - *your eyes are too pure to approve evil, and you cannot look on wickedness with favor!*
 - The difficulty is in the nature of God – how can God forsake Himself?
 - Theologians refer to this as “sovereign departure”
 - But somehow, God separates Himself from God
 - God the Father had to turn His back on God the Son
 - This is an impossible concept for us to comprehend
 - But in the final moments at the cross, Jesus sensed the abrupt loss of eternal communion with His Father. It was an inexplicable event—with no words appropriate to explain.
- Why was it necessary for Jesus to be forsaken?
 - Clearly, so that we never would be

- Jesus spoke from the cross the words of greatest loneliness and then, before He returned to His Father, the words of eternal companionship
 - **Matt 28:20b** - *...and surely I am with you always, even to the very end of the age.*
 - There is never a dark time, a dark place, or a moment of unwanted aloneness that Jesus is not with you
 - That knowledge is what sustains you to stand firm, refuse to compromise, and not allow the enemy to bring discouragement, fear, that begins to see you doing and saying things that are not right
 - Jesus had to be forsaken
- How did this happen?
 - He became sin for us
 - And when that happened the relationship between the Father and the Son was changed
 - Even how Jesus addresses God from the cross is different than in the Garden
 - Abba – a term of affection similar to daddy or papa
 - El-oh-ee (or El-oh-eem) – the name for God used throughout the Old Testament – creator God
 - Gone is the intimate, close address replaced with the most common form of the name of God
- Jesus sacrificed His life to save you and to save me
 - Becoming sin for us meant His heavenly Father would need to turn His face
 - This is known as substitutionary atonement – meaning taking someone else's place for the punishment to fully release that person from the penalty
 - Listen to how the Bible describes what Jesus did
 - **Isaiah 53:6** *“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him [that’s Jesus] the iniquity of us all.”*
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21** *“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*
 - **Galatians 3:13** *“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse.”*
 - **1 Peter 2:24** (Peter quoting from **Isaiah 53**): *“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”*
- This moment on the cross when Jesus cries out is the moment that freed us from the justified penalty of sin – Jesus paid it on our behalf
- Knowing that... (three “C’s”)
 1. Count the cost of your sin – when tempted consider what your sin costs
 - a. Not only what it cost that day over 2000 years ago
 - b. But what it will cost right now to those around you and the on-going price demanded of you
 - c. Sin ALWAYS comes with consequences

2. Consider the great love that God has for you
 - a. **1 John 4:10** - *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*
 - b. When we fully embrace His love for us it changes our outlook and how we deal with the difficult situations of our lives
3. Commit to a life of gratitude
 - a. How can we not be grateful knowing what was done for us
 - b. Not just in that one moment but for all eternity
 - c. The heart of gratitude recognizes that we demand nothing, we are entitled to nothing, and we can earn nothing
 - d. **Rom 6:23** - *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Conclude with this illustration of what was done for us...

The story is set in the wheat farms of the central United States around the turn of the last century. The locomotives of that day were driven by the power of the burning fuel (coal or wood) that would throw sparks in the exhaust smoke billowing out and sometimes they would start tremendous wheat fires that could burn for miles and miles. One day a farmer saw the fire coming in his direction so, thinking quickly, he lit a back-fire around his farm meaning he set a controlled fire that would take out the wheat closest to his house. When the raging wild-fire came near, it met the fields that had already burned, and the flames, now with nothing to sustain them, went out. The farmer had saved his buildings, but he had lost his crops. As he was out surveying the damage, he came across the body of one of his hens, lying right in the path of the fire. At first, he thought the bird must have become confused and run into the line of fire instead of away from it. Then, with a stick, as he flipped over the charred body, a dozen little chicks came running out from underneath. The hen had given her life to protect her chicks.

While this does not in any way capture the enormity of what was done for us the visual it presents is accurate

- Jesus gave His life so that we may live
- Our lives should reflect the understanding of what that meant by how we live
- *My God, My God, why have you forsaken me* was not the final cry of a dying man but the beginning of a cry of victory that was punctuated with Jesus' final words – *It is finished! Into Your hands I commit My Spirit.*
- We'll look at that together next week, Palm Sunday