

Connection to Passage

The Gospel writers record seven different sayings of Jesus from the cross. Matthew recorded only one of these sayings, but it was one filled with deep pain and suffering. Within this recorded saying we discover the pain of our sin.

Introduction/Opening

Most events cause a mixed reaction. For example, the final play of a sporting event for some is a moment of victory, but for others it represents defeat, and for others it brings relief. Everyone witnessed the same event but had different reactions.

As Jesus was crucified, we find people present with different reactions. Some were jeering while others watched with curiosity. Some were heartbroken, because Jesus was a friend or a family member. But in the middle of all this was Jesus. In this text, we read how Jesus Christ experienced the wrath of God while dying on the cross. It is a vivid picture of how God judged sin. The Bible teaches in Romans 6:23 that “the wages of sin is death.” And on the cross, Jesus received the wages that we deserve. While He had no sin, He was bearing the sins of the world, and His reaction reveals how horrible our sins truly are.

Outline

- I. What Was Jesus Saying? (v. 46)
 - a. Some in the crowd were confused about what Jesus was saying. They thought Jesus was calling for Elijah.
 - b. Jesus was expressing that He sensed a separation from the Father.
 - c. The thought of someone being forsaken by God is the most horrible thought in all the world.
 - d. Jesus had never before known this separation. He had always had intimacy with the Father. And now, to be forsaken by the Father was agonizing. The one thing Jesus dreaded was the Father forsaking Him. In the horror of His cry, we cannot help but be confronted with cost of our salvation.

- II. Why Was Jesus Forsaken by God the Father?
 - a. Sin separates us from God. Adam and Eve saw their fellowship with God broken because of sin.
 - b. When Jesus bore humankind's sins on the cross, God's holiness demanded separation. Jesus bore every sin of the world when He was on the cross, and those sins separated Him from God the Father. Jesus paid the penalty for those sins by suffering the wrath of God in our place (1 Pet. 3:18).

- c. While the world has no idea how serious sin is, the Bible tells us the truth concerning the cost and seriousness of sin. And while the world might disagree, the Bible is clear in declaring that we are all sinners and unable to save ourselves.

III. What Does That Mean To Us Today?

- a. The good news of all of this is that Jesus was forsaken by God so that we might be forgiven by God. The death of Jesus was the only way our forgiveness would be made possible. Heaven is perfect, and no one can go to heaven with sin, so God's forgiveness is essential.
- b. Another blessing for the believer is that Jesus cried out those words so that we would never have to do so. Yes, you may have to cry out the first half of that statement, "My God, my God, why...?" But the believer will never have to cry out the second half of that statement: "...why have you abandoned me?" God promised that He would not forsake His people (Heb. 13:5).

Conclusion

At the cross, one can clearly see the great love that our Lord has for us. Realizing what our sins cost Him should cause us to thank Him and love Him in return. The great news from the cross is that because of Jesus' suffering, all people have a way to escape the condemnation of eternal suffering. The Bible explains it in 2 Corinthians 5:21: "He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." Jesus took the wrath of God for those who believe in Him by faith. Jesus died so that you could live forever with Him. But for those who reject Jesus, there is another judgment coming. They will suffer God's wrath for themselves. They will hear Jesus say to them the words of Matthew 25:41: "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire."

The cross is a crossroads where every person must make a decision about what they will do with Jesus. For those who choose to follow Christ, Paul gave a simple explanation about how to make that commitment: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation" (Rom. 10:9-10).

We can show our gratitude to Jesus by daily thanking our Lord for suffering and dying in our place. Additionally, we can show our gratitude by sharing His message of love and forgiveness with others.

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