



At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Matthew 27:46



LAST WORDS.



Week 4

Week 4, Day 1

Monday

Matthew 27:46, John 1:1-4, Romans 6:16-18

**“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”
which means “My God,
my God, why have you
abandoned me?”**

Matthew 27:46

SUBMIT TO GOD

To understand the power of Jesus' sacrifice upon the cross, we must have a basic understanding of the Trinity. At the beginning of his gospel, John takes the time to unfold the power of the Trinity. He explains that Christ has always been with God from the beginning. He addresses the divinity and sameness of the Father and the Son, Jesus. The Trinity, in many ways, is a mystery to us on this side of heaven, but to understand Jesus' final words in Matthew 27 ("My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"), We must grasp the most fundamental principle of the Trinity: God the Father and Jesus Christ are one.

Fleming Rutledge writes it this way,

"On the Cross. Jesus voluntarily and willingly bowed his head under the power of Sin and the curse of God. We must understand that the Father did not do this to the Son; the Son and the Father are doing this together. Jesus "gives himself with his own hand," as one of our most important Eucharistic hymns says. God is submitting to God's own wrath. That is one of the most important reasons – perhaps the most important reason – that Jesus was crucified."

Jesus, God incarnate, gives Himself up on the cross and takes the full brunt of that suffering and sinful weight (which is abandonment from God) upon Himself. It is a paradox in how we try to wrap our minds around it, but Christ sacrifices Himself and takes upon Himself the abandonment that is the curse of our sin.



REFLECTION

Have you ever really thought about this theological idea that Jesus is God sacrificed upon the cross? Have you considered the impact and weight of the loving God of the universe sacrificing Himself for our mistakes and failures? The purpose of Lent is to reflect on these questions. To remember this sacrifice. That God gave Himself up. Spend some time remembering His sacrifice. Thank Him for His love, grace, and mercy.

Week 4, Day 2

Tuesday

Matthew 27:46, Psalm 22:1-8, Isaiah 41:10, Romans 8:38-39,
Matthew 28:19-20

**“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”
which means “My God,
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Matthew 27:46

ABANDONMENT

In yet another powerful example for us. Jesus, as He hangs upon the cross, cries out to God. He cries, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?” Make no mistake, the weight of carrying the world’s sins has closed Jesus out from the presence of the Father. He is taking on the curse that sin brings to our lives, abandonment from God, but there’s something greater at play here too. Jesus is crying out the prayer of the Psalmist from Psalm 22. Jesus is demonstrating yet again that He is present here upon the cross, in the prayers and lives of the Old Testament followers, and in our future. The work of the cross is not limited to the present but to all of eternity.

“Part of the whole point of the cross is that there the weight of the world’s evil really did converge upon Jesus, blotting out the sunlight of God’s love as surely as the light of day was blotted out for three hours. Jesus is ‘giving his life as a ransom for many’, and the sin of the ‘many, which he is bearing, has for the first and only time in his experience caused a cloud to come between him and the father he loved and obeyed, the one who had been delighted in him.” -N.T. Wright Matthew For Everyone Part 2



REFLECTION

It is here, in Matthew 27:46, that we get the most torturous example of Jesus’ suffering. Jesus put on the weight, burden, and pain of sin, which means He experienced the outcome of sin in its purest way: abandonment from God. Loneliness. Silence. Emptiness from the Creator. There is nothing worse in this creation than to be separated from God. Jesus took this on so we wouldn’t have to.

Reflect this morning using the passages above on the fact that Jesus never abandons you. Thank Him for His presence and invite Him to open your eyes, heart, and mind more towards His presence today.

Also, take time to pray a Psalm just as Jesus did here on the cross. Pray Psalm 107:1-3 as a prayer of thanks for Jesus’ love and sacrifice.

Week 4, Day 3

Wednesday

Matthew 27:46, Psalm 139

“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”
which means **“My God,
my God, why have you
abandoned me?”**

Matthew 27:46

KNOWN

If you have been in church more than a handful of times, you have probably heard a pastor or someone proclaim that no one knows you better than Jesus. This is, of course, entirely true. He created you, has been with you your entire life, and knows your thoughts and nature. What we miss is that Jesus in Matthew 27:46 identifies with us in the last way possible. He personally knows our suffering and abandonment when we walk from God.

It is a weight so great upon Him that He cries out for the God He cannot feel in that moment. The crucifixion is a reminder for us that the God of the universe cares for us, sees us, lived life on earth like us, lived this life perfectly like we cannot, but also carried the weight of the mistakes and punishment that we deserve and could not carry on our own. The most basic need that exists in all of us is the desire to be truly known and loved. That is why we cling to the relationships where we feel like we receive this. Far too often, though, we neglect the relationship of the One who embodies this knowledge and love for us, Jesus. Don't forget the cry that He made toward God for you because He knows you and loves you.



REFLECTION

Who is someone you feel like you know and love on a deeper and more personal level than most? Today, reach out to them and let them know you love and care about them. Pray for them. More importantly, ask God to help you and this person to draw near to the knowledge of His warmth, love, and embrace of us.

Week 4, Day 4

Thursday

Hebrews 13:5-6, John 14:15-18, John 16:33

**“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”
which means “My God,
my God, why have you
abandoned me?”**

Matthew 27:46

NEVER ALONE

“In many Christian bookshops around the world today you can buy posters to hang on the wall which remind you of some aspect of the Christian faith and life. Often they have biblical texts, set against a background of glorious scenery. Sometimes they are funny. Sometimes they include poems, or short meditations.

One of the best known of these is called ‘Footprints’ It tells of someone looking back over their life, lived in trust with God, seeing it like a set of footprints through the sand. There are two sets of footprints most of the way; you and God, as it were, walking side by side. But sometimes - and they were always the hardest times - there was only one set. Why, you ask, did God abandon you at that moment? Back comes the answer: in those times, my child, I was carrying you.” -N.T. Wright Matthew For Everyone Part 2



REFLECTION

No matter what we face in this life, we can stand confidently, knowing that we don't go through it alone. Christ is with us always. From the beginning, He walked with us until the end; He carried us with Him. Take some time today to either go for a walk or sit in a quiet place. Use this time to be near God and thank Him for His presence in your life.

Week 4, Day 5

Friday

Matthew 27:45-49, Matthew 17:10-13

**“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”
which means “My God,
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Matthew 27:46

BIG MISTAKES

The people were confused by Jesus’ shout to God in Matthew 27. Some thought He was asking for the Old Testament prophet Elijah to come and save Him. In fact, He had already commented on the misunderstood belief that Elijah hadn’t returned. He explained that John the Baptist was the representative of Elijah who came and proclaimed the coming of Jesus, but they would not listen, just as they didn’t listen now.

The people’s salvation was already here. Elijah had already come to point them to Him, but they missed the message. The greatest tragedy of life is if we miss the message that is right before us, shouting out on a cross. Jesus is our Messiah. He is our only means of salvation. Far too often, our world misses this fact. We think all religions point back to Jesus, or if we’re good enough, we’re saved, or the worst of all, that a good life is a good enough reward, and we need no saving.

We cannot make the same mistake the world has been making for hundreds of years, the very mistake that happened when Jesus hung upon a cross before them and shouted out to God. Christ is our salvation, and His death is the encouragement for the glorious day to come when we, who have put our faith in Him alone, will be united with Him once more for all of eternity in paradise.



REFLECTION

What is something you find confusing about God and salvation? This week, we examined one of Jesus’ most misunderstood last words. It is important that we seek to know and put faith in Jesus, His words, and knowing Him more. Spend some time today looking into scripture to find answers to your confusions about God and salvation. If you need help, contact a friend, mentor, or one of our staff members at Grace to seek some direction.

Week 4, Day 6

Saturday

Reflection Day

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS

This week, we looked at Jesus' last words from Matthew 27:46, "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*". As we wrap up this week's study, go back and read Matthew 27:46. Reflect on these words that Jesus spoke. Reflect on what they mean about His character, His work on the cross, and how it should change how we see Him and how we live. Reflect/journal your thoughts on this or these following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about who God is this week.
- What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
- How can you begin to posture your life to receive more from Him?

Week 4, Day 7

Sunday

Rest Day

Use today to rest, pray, and catch up on any of this week's readings you may have missed. Use today as a preparation for your heart toward the next week's study of God and His word.