

Fourth Saying– Forsaken
Matthew 27:45-46

INTRO: A. W. Pink says, “The very word ‘forsaken’ is one of the most tragic in all human speech.”

In previous messages, we have dealt with the three sayings during Christ’s first three hours on the cross.

Notice these important events on the cross and the time which they occurred:

1. It was at 9:00 am that Jesus was nailed to the cross.
 - a. This was the time of the morning sacrifice.
 - b. From 9:00 am till 12 noon, Jesus hung on the cross suffering from the heat, the wounds, the insects, and the jeers of the crowd.
 - c. The first three sayings from the cross were between 9 am- 12 noon: “Father forgive them;” “Today shalt thou...;” “Woman behold thy son, Son behold thy mother....”
2. At 12:00 noon, great darkness falls upon the land. Midnight at mid-day.
 - a. God shrouded the sun with mourning dress.
 - b. Darkness prevailed from 12 noon - 3:00 pm.
 - c. About the ninth hour (3:00 pm), Jesus cried: “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?”
3. At 3:00 pm, Jesus dismisses His spirit. This is the time of the evening sacrifice. He died as our substitute at the time prescribed in eternity past (Rev.).

Today’s message deals with the fourth saying from the cross. We want to reverently look at each word spoken by the Savior in this fourth saying.

- I. “MY GOD, MY GOD....”
 - A. Forsaken of God, but He had not forsaken God.
 1. Our Lord’s faith did not falter.
 2. He says twice, “My God, My God....” This is the double grip of unhesitating faith.
 - B. Jesus said, “My God.” My is the pronoun of personal possession.
 1. He did not say, “O God.” He said, “My God.”
 2. Although God was laying on Jesus the iniquity of us all (Isa 53:4-6, 10), Jesus clave to the Father as His own.
 - C. Job said, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.” Jesus was

saying, "Though He forsake me, yet will I trust and submit to Him."

1. Jesus said, "do as you will. I kiss the hand that smites me."

2. Jesus trusted fully in His Father.

- D. The Apostle Paul in II Tim 1:12 says: *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*

II. "WHY"

- A. Herbert Lockyer said, "Love that questions is not love that doubts a love ready to follow God, even in any darkness, will prevail." We need to learn this lesson: trust Him in the good times and the bad times.

- B. "Why?" was Jesus forsaken of God.

1. Because God is holy.

a. Notice Psalm 22 verse 1 and you will find the answer to the question, "Why?"

b. God is holy and cannot and will not compromise with sin.

c. Jesus Christ became sin for us (II Cor 5:21). Our sin separated Christ from God.

2. Because of the justice of God— God is just.

a. Justice says sin must be punished.

b. Jesus bore the justice of God on the cross.

c. When Jesus became sin for us, God judged sin. Jesus had no sin of His own, but He took ours.

1- I Pet 2:24.

2- Isa 53:6, 10

3- There is no way of transferring sin without transferring sin's penalty.

d. When Jesus cried, "Forsaken," He was suffering the penalty of sin in our stead.

e. Moyer said, "He was suffering the penalty of sin in our stead, for sin cannot escape the justice and judgment of God. This and this alone can explain the darkness and the cry."

f. During the three hours of darkness, Jesus suffered as no man has ever suffered. He suffered our hell during those hours of darkness.

1- In three hours of light, He suffered from men.

- In three hours of darkness, He suffered for men.
- 2- In three hours of light, He suffered from man's injustice. In three hours of darkness, He suffered from God's justice.
 - 3- Men hated the sin bearer; God hated the burden He bore.
3. Why? Because of God's love- God is love. That is why Christ suffered.
 - a. I John 4:10, 19.
 - b. "The cross is the vindication of God's divine justice, the manifestation of divine love, the foundation of divine pardon" (Moyer).
 4. Why? That the sinner might be forgiven and his sins forgotten.
 - a. Note these words, "Forsaken," "Forgiven," and "Forgotten." The claims of God are met in Christ and His obedience.
 - b. Sin was put away by Christ my substitute.
 - c. God gave His Son that is fact. We receive His Son- that is faith.
 - d. I am accepted in the beloved (Eph 1:6) because God accepted the sacrifice of His beloved.
 - e. I am shut up in Christ because Christ was shut out from God (Col 3:3).
 - f. He was forsaken that we might be favored.
 - g. He endured the sinner's pain that we might enjoy the Savior's presence. Separated from God that we might be united to God.

III. "HAST"

- A. There is no question to it. Jesus was forsaken by God.
- B. Christ suffered our doom- "forsaken."
- C. Luther said, "God forsaken of God! Who can understand it."
- D. Dr. I M Haldeman insists, "He was forsaken-separated-shut out from God. He said so and it was so."
- E. Jesus was, no doubt, forsaken of God.
 1. Rambach said: "The heavenly Father now regards His Son as the greatest sinner to be found beneath the sun, and discharges upon Him the whole weight of His wrath."

2. Calvin and Luther have both declared that in the hours preceding this cry our Lord endured the torments of the damned.

IV. "THOU"

- A. Jesus Christ was rejected by men throughout His life.
 1. John 1:11, "He came unto His own, and his own received Him not."
 2. When He spoke of the cross, many of His followers left Him. So many that He said to the disciples, "Will ye also go away?"
 3. The leaders of His nation "took counsel together how they might slay Him."
 4. Judas sold Him out for thirty pieces of silver.
 5. Peter denied Him with cursing.
- B. Rejected by men, but oh, what agony when forsaken by God. "My God, My God, why hast THOU forsaken me?"
 1. Jesus could say throughout eternity: "I am not alone, the Father is with me."
 2. But on the cross, during that dark hour, God turned from His Son for He must, as God, turn from sin.

V. "FORSAKEN"

- A. Forsaken, sin separates man from God (Isa 59:2).
 1. The veil of the Temple was there to prevent access to God. The veil witnessed to the solemn fact that sin separates from God.
 2. Man was driven from the garden of Eden, from the presence of God, because of sin.
- B. Sinners are alienated from God.
 1. Sinners who do not repent must forever be separated from the presence of the Lord (II Thes 1:8-9).
 2. To be cast from the presence of God is hell.
 3. Forsaken— this is hell. Jesus Christ took our hell for us.

VI. "ME"

- A. Man deserves to be forsaken; man deserves hell (Eph 2:2-3).
 1. Men are rebels against God.
 2. Men are enemies of God (Rm 5:10).
 3. Men are not subject to God.

4. Men deserve the wrath, not the favor of God.
 5. Men deserve to be forsaken of God.
- B. But Jesus Christ did not deserve to be forsaken. Then why was He forsaken? Only one answer can be given– He took my place.
1. He who should never have been forsaken was forsaken in order that he who should have been forsaken forever might be forgiven and not forsaken.
 2. Praise be to God. Jesus Christ who should never have been forsaken took my place so I could be forgiven and not forsaken.

CONCLUSION: What Jesus did on the cross He did for sinners. Trust in Christ who took your place and suffered your hell so that you could have eternal life.