

JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS

Matthew 27:27-56 (Key verse 46)

About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?")

The title of today's message is '**JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS**'. Do you know what it took for Him to do this? Do you know what His death entailed? As we will learn through today's passage, Jesus dying for my sins and yours escalated to **the agony of agonies**: being forsaken by the only true God. The Lord Jesus dying for you and me escalated to Him experiencing and crying, expressing the agony of agonies [the most extreme pain one could ever experience]: "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). **What a painful tragedy He suffered for us that He should reach this point!**

Through what Jesus went through to die for our sins, we will learn that it is a dreadful and painful thing to be separated from God. Along with this, we learn that **the Salvation of Christ to mankind** is too serious a matter to take lightly. Let us go through the passage, and learn about the true love of God for sinners. It is my prayer that through this passage we can repent and look to Christ Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. He saves us from the worst thing – that is, to be forsaken by God to the point of death. **Amen.**

As we may have learnt in our Group Bible Studies and as we read the passage from verses 27-30, the Lord Jesus was greatly mocked and humiliated by the whole company of Pontius Pilate's soldiers at the Praetorium [the official residence of a governor of a Roman province]. At this place – **the Praetorium** – these aggressive soldiers stripped Him of His clothes and put a scarlet robe on Him., They placed a crown of thorns on His head and gave Him a staff in His right hand. They even knelt in front of Him. All this was to mock Jesus as king. They spat on Him and even struck Him on the head **again and again**. This shows that they offered the Lord Jesus artificial worship and made Him a dummy king whom they could spit on and strike as they wished. In verse 31 we learn that after this humiliation, physical and emotional pain, they put His own clothes back on Him...and led Him away to **crucify** Him. As if this were not enough, what else did they do? They placed **A Great Strength-Consuming Burden on Him** – the heavy crossbeam that at some point a man of Cyrene named "Simon" had to be forced to carry it for the Lord Jesus. What else happened? What further worsened the **excruciating pain** – both physically and emotionally?

Look at verses 33-34. "33 They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). 34 There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it." This '*wine mixed with gall*' was meant to numb the pain and mind of people going to be crucified to lessen their awareness of the agony awaiting them so that they do not die just yet – with the intention to inflict **as much pain as possible** on offenders deserving of crucifixion. As we have just read, the Lord Jesus refused to drink it. If He did not drink it, it means He took on the full pain and awareness of the agony awaiting Him at the Place of the Skull, Golgotha. Should He not have screamed to God at this point, "My

God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" I mean the physical and emotional pain had reached great heights at this point. And as if this was not excruciating enough, He has now become aware of what is coming next, **the crucifixion**.

Remember they were leading Him to be crucified in the most painful way possible. They finally did so. Look at verse 35, "When they had crucified Him, they divided up His clothes by casting lots" **What does it mean that they crucified Him?** It means that the Lord Jesus was finally nailed to the cross, both His feet and His hands were nailed to the cross. **Yet**, the Lord Jesus still did not cry out to God. "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth".

The written charge on the cross – above His head – was '*THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.*' This charge made everyone in the city pass by in view of the inscription – to throw further insults at Him in disgust. They challenged Jesus, saying, "*You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself!*"..."*Come down from the cross if you are the Son of God!*"... The chief priest mocked Him and said, in verse 42, "*He saved others, but He can't save Himself, He is king of Israel! Let Him come down from the cross and we will believe in Him!*". **All these things they said** were true about Jesus. This means Jesus could have been tempted to actually show them **that** indeed He is king of Israel, **that** He can save Himself from the cross. **However**, the Lord Jesus **intentionally** chose to take our place **such that** the wrath of God was upon Him because our sin had been placed on Him. He was now in a position of being judged by God, the Holy One. The wages of sin is death.

Verse 45 tells us that from noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. This symbolized that the Light of the World – Jesus – was extinguished. This is because Jesus had fully drunk the cup of God's wrath. Let us all read the key verse, verse 46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")."

The Lord Jesus **FOR THE FIRST TIME** since His crucifixion **spoke**, ...**crying to God**. He did not cry to anyone but to God and said out loud: "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" - "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?". The Lord Jesus cried out to God in deep agony as He was painfully hanging on the cross for many hours. It is a dreadful and extremely scary thing to finally or eventually die without connection to or without having a relationship with Your Maker in the way that He has prescribed. **This loud cry of agony** is confirmation that indeed God had forsaken Jesus because at this point Jesus had become sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God...**This loud cry of agony** also shows what the wrath of God looks like.

This loud cry of agony shows that Jesus was forsaken so that we may not be forsaken by God. The Lord Jesus cried out so that we may never have to cry out in agony about being separated from God. This is indeed God's mercy for us – that He could forsake His

precious Son so that I may not be forsaken by Him. **This loud cry of agony** is indeed an indication of how serious this salvation is to God— it's too serious a matter to take lightly. This is the revelation of how serious sin is – too serious a matter to take lightly. This all happened to Jesus **because of sin**. So let's not be fools who continue to live in sin, for to continue to live in sin is to despise and ridicule what Jesus did on the cross for you and me.

Truly as my brother Silence echoed the Scripture: “Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” Praise God! Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who loved us greatly to have inflicted the *‘agony surpassing all agonies you can think of’* on the sinless and righteous Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

The agony of the Lord Jesus – ‘My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?’ – takes me back to 2018 in my room at Clifton Heights, a Southpoint residence in Braamfontein. This was my first year at Wits, during the second semester. I had a near-death experience, a story I have not told many – but mentioned it a few times [but mostly to Lehlogonolo, my beloved little brother, because of his questions concerning the existence of heaven and hell.

Before I had this experience I had a normal day like any other. I then went to sleep like any other day. Suddenly, I sensed myself declining as one lying down flat facing straightly up the ceiling. I was just going down and down out of my body. And down I went. The more I went down or the more I declined, the more it became dark. I could only see light indicating an opening upwards. So as I was declining, going deeper into whatever hole I was in, I wanted to slow down the declining motion. I kicked and kicked but this was in vain because there was nothing to hold on to – I was just in a dark hole without walls. I tried really hard when I knew **exactly** – in my conscience – where I was going. I knew deep down in within me that I was going to hell. No one can tell me otherwise, I knew then and I know now that I was going to hell. As I was trying to slow down the declining motion – to hell as the destination – I heard a voice of a man laughing at me and continued to say to me: “hell is waiting for you”. I was so scared. I have never been so fearful as I was that day. I called on the name of Jesus but if I recall correctly nothing happened for quite some time. I became powerless [helpless] as I was going down and failing to go up to reach the white light above me. However, after some time after calling the name of Jesus and my voice running out, I shot up into my body and immediately woke up breathing heavily. (Why this happened to me I don't know really but **what I do know** is that the Bible is true concerning the existence of hell and that there is a Saviour called Jesus). The point is: it is a dreadful and painful thing to be separated from God, your maker.

Generally speaking, it does not grieve people to be separated from God or to even think that they can be subject to God's wrath yet this is what the Lord Jesus Himself grieved for. He who was without sin was made sin for me so that I do not have to experience the

guaranteed manifestation of the penalty of sin which is separation from God, with no hope for reconciliation. Because of my near-death experience, I can attest that there is such a thing as eternal damnation. However, only Jesus has the right to ask God, “why have You forsaken Me?”.

This is because He who had no sin was made to be sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. That is, so that we would be made acceptable to God and placed in a right relationship with Him by His gracious lovingkindness through Christ Jesus, the light of the world. Like the centurion who believed that Jesus was truly the Son of God, I am reminded of my ‘near death’ experience that it is a dreadful and painful thing to be forsaken by God – and to realise it when you are dying. Through the passage and the key verse capturing the agony of agonies – the eventual separation from God on account of one's habitually sinful life without repentance – I am rebuked to not take the Gospel for granted. It is, as Apostle Paul says, “the gospel is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16b). My Lord Jesus drank the full cup of God's wrath that was meant for me so that I do not have to drink it. Lord, forgive me for not meditating on that experience enough. Separation from God, the Creator of the heavens and earth, is too serious a matter to take lightly. In light of the truth of God's word concerning the Lord Jesus dying for my sins – and this entailing that He be **terribly forsaken** for my sake – pray for me to **boldly and excellently** serve others [particularly students] in the **practical truth of the Gospel as a campus shepherd**. May I intently and actively live a life whose foundation and breath is the Gospel of God who is love and just – the God and Father of my Lord Jesus Christ.

May you never think it wise to live a life without God because eventually, you will find out that “there was Saviour I heard of”. Don't find out the hard way. After all, what this message revealed is that Jesus died for our sins. **The question is: do you regard yourself a sinner?** If yes, then praise God who loved you to the point of forsaking His Son so that you should not be forsaken. I truly desire that you see God's love, who gave Jesus to die for our sin so that we may live for God and die to sin. AMEN.