

The Death of Christ

May 29, 2016

Matthew 27:45-53

How much are we loved by God? So much that:

1) God forsook His son for our sake.

*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning? O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; and in the night season, and am not silent. But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in You; they trusted, and You delivered them. They cried to, you, and were delivered; they trusted in You, and were not ashamed. But I am a **worm**, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised by the people. All those who see Me ridicule Me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!" But You are He who took Me out of the womb; you made Me trust while on My mother's breasts. I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother's womb. You have been My God. Be not far from Me, for trouble is near; for there is none to help. **Psalm 22:1-11***

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:4-5

"In those awful moments, Jesus was expressing His feelings of abandonment as God placed the sins of the world on Him – and because of that had to "turn away" from Jesus. As Jesus was feeling that weight of sin, He was experiencing separation from God for the only time in all of eternity. It was at this time that 2 Corinthians 5:21 occurred, "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." Jesus became sin for us, so He felt the loneliness and abandonment that sin always produces, except that in His case, it was not His sin – it was ours." ~ www.gotquestions.org

In this unique and strange miracle, Jesus was crying out in anguish because of the separation He now experienced from His Heavenly Father for the first and only time in all of eternity. It is the only time of which we have record that Jesus did not address God as Father. Because the Son had taken sin upon Himself, the Father turned His back. That mystery is so great and imponderable that it is not surprising that Martin Luther is said to have gone into seclusion for a long time trying to understand it and came away as confused as when he began. In some way and by some means, in the secrets of divine sovereignty and omnipotence, the God-Man was separated from God for a brief time at Calvary, as the furious wrath of the Father was poured out on the sinless Son, who in matchless grace became sin for those who believe in Him. Habakkuk declared of God, "Thine eyes are too pure to approve evil, and Thou canst not look on wickedness with favor" (Hab. 1:13). God turned His back when Jesus was on the cross because He could not look upon sin, even-or perhaps especially-in His own Son. Just as Jesus loudly lamented, **God** the Father had indeed **forsaken** Him. Jesus Christ not only bore man's sin but actually became sin on mans behalf, in order that those who believe in Him might be saved from the penalty of their sin. Jesus came to teach men perfectly about God and to be a perfect example of God's holiness and righteousness. But, as He Himself declared, the supreme reason

for His coming to earth was not to teach or to be an example but “to give His life a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:28). **When Christ was forsaken by the Father, their separation was not one of nature, essence, or substance. Christ did not in any sense or degree cease to exist as God or as a member of the Trinity. He did not cease to be the Son, any more than a child who sins severely against his human father ceases to be his child. But Jesus did for a while cease to know the intimacy of fellowship with His Heavenly Father, just as a disobedient child ceases for a while to have intimate, normal, loving fellowship with his human father.” ~ John MacArthur**

2) Jesus willingly gave His life.

“Jesus’ death was a triumph not a tragedy.” ~ Warren Wiersbe

And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. **Matthew 27:50**

No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father. **John 10:18**

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. **1 John 3:16**

Why?

Obedience

He **loves** us

3) We were given direct access to God.

Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split. **Matthew 27:51**

Not just Salvation, but fellowship.

Prayer Focus:

I would receive God’s love.

I would bask in God’s love and enjoy the fellowship.

I would share God’s love.