



Last Words

Week 4: Was Jesus Forsaken? | Teacher: Libin Abraham
Sermon Questions for 3.24.2024

Opener

What song can you hear one line of, then are immersed in the whole song?

Read

Matthew 27:39-46; John 16:32; Psalm 22; Mark 14:32-34; Hebrews 12:2; Hebrews 13:5

Main Points

1. You may have been taught that the Father turned his face away from Jesus, because God couldn't look upon our sin. This isn't actually anywhere in scripture and God didn't turn away from Adam and Eve when they sinned - in fact he went to them!
 - a. He sees the sin of the world and sent Jesus to be our rescue, he didn't turn from us, but came to us.
 - b. Jesus, when he walked on earth, went to those trapped in sin to free them! He didn't turn from them.
2. Jesus' cry on the cross is a *prayer of anguish*.
 - a. This gives us freedom to pray honest prayers in our moment of anguish and pain.
3. Psalm 22 is not only a prayer of anguish, it is also a *prayer of faith*.
 - a. Jesus, in quoting Psalm 22, is verbalizing his confidence in his Father that he has not actually forsaken him and that his Father will ultimately rescue him.
4. Rescue is coming, but it's not rescue from the cross, it's rescue through the cross.
5. Anguish and faith can be held together - there can be praise simultaneously with our pain.
6. Gratitude is praising God for what he has done. Faith is praising God for what he will do because he has promised to do it.

Engage with God in a Group

- When was the last time you felt stressed or like you couldn't handle anything else and how did you respond?
- What does it mean, to you, that Jesus experienced pain and agony, as he was on the cross for us?
- When you think of Jesus' words on the cross, what thoughts do you have?
- Who might need to be encouraged through you - that God is faithful and loving and does not forsake us?

Bottom Line

Because God is faithful, you will not be forsaken.