

Scripture: Psalm 22 – Jesus Begs You to Read It!

Jesus Cries Out from the Cross -- Matthew 27:32-46

Jesus cries out from the cross, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?!” This is a clue from Jesus. He is not just crying out Himself. He is pointing us to read Psalm 22.

Why Have You Forsaken Me? – Psalm 22:1-2

Forsaken means “Turned your back on.” This is David’s personal experience. As he writes this, he is overwhelmed by the absence of God in his life.

God Was Trusted In The Past – Psalm 22:3-5 (NIV)

These words are full of question, not of fact. David is questioning all the facts that he’s known because He feels abandoned by God in his time of need.

So the question is... why is David feeling abandoned when the stories talk of God’s salvation?

Two Reasons:

1. We make the great stories too glorious. We overlook the dark sides of the people of the Bible.
2. **God didn’t forsake David.** David turned his back on God. (2 Samuel 11 – David commits adultery & murder)

David Feels Worthless – Psalm 22:6-8– I am a worm

David expresses great self-doubt. He has no value in his mind. He has made poor life choices, and lost everything. He is consumed.

When you’re at the bottom like that, it’s hard to think you can recover.

David Recalls when He Felt God’s Presence – Ps 22:9-11

There is often a cycle to these things – Read The Prodigal Son (Luke 15). When he left, he didn’t think, “I’m such a jerk.” He thought, “My dad is an idiot.”

Reflecting later as he ate out of a pig trough, he realized what He had at home was actually really good.

It was only then he realized he made a bad choice.

David Has Terrible Dreams – Psalm 22:12-18

David is Desperate – Psalm 22:19-21 – Be Not Far Off

There is a cry of desperation – a cry of need for God, a desire to return to an experience of knowing God will provide for what we need, a desire to feel like you have some value (not a worm).

God’s Response – “I am Here” – Psalm 22:22-24

“He has never let you down, never looked the other way when you were being kicked around. He has never wandered off to do his own thing; he has been right there, listening.” – Psalm 22:24 (The Message)

The Promise of a Glorious Future – Psalm 22:25-31

Back to Jesus on the cross. This is his reference. That the forsakenness... maybe on both sides... will be bridged in the near future.

Goodness will return to the earth because of what Jesus Christ did on the cross. Goodness will return to the earth because of your humble obedience to follow Him.

What is your relationship with God? This may be a good time to consider it.

Questions to Ponder – Psalm 22

1. Read Matthew 27:32-46 – What comes to mind as you picture Jesus on the cross?
2. Read Psalm 22:1-8 – How can David's words change from "Why?" to "A History of God's Faithfulness" back to "I am a worm"? What is going on in David's head? Do you ever have thoughts like these?
3. At first, in Psalm 22:1-8, David can only consider his current situation. But in 22:9-11, he stops and considers his whole history with God. When you're upset, do you tend to live right in the moment of all that pain or are you also able to consider everything good in that relationship?
4. In Psalm 22:19-21, David is desperate. Can desperate ever be a good thing with God?
5. In Psalm 22:22-31, David realizes his current situation may be bad, but his whole experience with God will be unbelievably good! Do you have an understanding of your future with God?

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