

Forsaken for Us 2020-02-23

John 19:26-30

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" 27 Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." 29 A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Jesus' crucifixion was unique: it affected everyone who ever lived for all eternity.

- Jesus was forsaken so that believers will never be forsaken.

Father was not indifferent bystander: He poured out His wrath accumulated against all sins of all ages on Jesus. Mark 15:33-34, Matthew 27:45-46, 1 John 4:10

- Darkness in Scripture often symbol of divine judgment. 9th plague.
 - With Jesus' full consent He suffered torments of hell on cross for all believers....the just punishment for their sin.
 - God's infinite love does not push aside His absolute justice nor does His justice destroy His love.
- Jesus didn't just bear sin, He became sin yet didn't sin or become sinner.
 - Every penalty of sin in a believer's life was attributed to Jesus for which He was punished.. Mark 15:34b, 1 Peter 2:24, Isaiah 53:5, Romans 6:23, 1 Peter 3:18a

Proof Jesus became substitute for all Christians is that Father separated Himself (forsaken: leave behind, desert) from Jesus..... necessary consequence of sin.

- Separate soul > body = natural death; separate soul>God = spiritual death.
 - incomprehensible. How can God be separated from God?

Not separated in essence/nature/substance....Jesus did not cease to be God.

- Separated in terms of intimate fellowship and communion w/Father.
 - Can't fathom – it's like blind not missing the light when turned off.
 - Jesus is perfectly holy and had unbroken fellowship with the Father.

Father never stopped loving Jesus....that's impossible.

- Jesus always pleasing to Father especially when on cross because it was the pinnacle of His obedience to the Father's will. Hebrews 5:8
 - But Father treated Jesus AS IF He hated Jesus rather than loved Him.
 - Jesus lost SENSE of Father's love/favor—not the love/favor.
- Reason cried "My God" not "Father".....relationship here is judicial not paternal!

- Yet it's an expression of intimacy and faith. "MY God!" Psalm 22:1-5

By Jesus continuing to trust the Father even with no visible reason to do so, He accomplished His earthly mission of glorifying the Father. John 12:27-28, 17:1

- Careful even cross not become man-centered.... primarily about us. In dark times, difficult situations or great struggles with sin can't FEEL nearness of God.....FEEL rejected and tempted to despair and stop trusting Father.

- Maybe you even lose SENSE of Father's love/favor.
 - Go to Jesus. He's been there in way you can't know
- The foundation of our faith is not in feeling God's love but in promise of His love made at cross.
 - Christian, you can never lose the love/favor of your Father.

Jesus was forsaken so believer will never be forsaken. Hebrews 13:5b, Psalm 22:24.

- Because Jesus said "My God why have you forsaken Me?" we can ask in wonder/worship, "My God, why have you accepted me?"
 - Answer is the cross.....heart of Gospel.

Spurgeon Quote

Once there was a fear of hell upon you; but now you have no fear of it, for how can there be punishment for the guiltless? He who believes is not condemned and cannot be punished.

And more than all, the privileges you might have enjoyed, if you had never sinned, are yours now that you are justified. All the blessings that you would have had if you had kept the law are yours, because Christ has kept it for you. All the love and acceptance that perfect obedience could have obtained belong to you, because Christ was perfectly obedient on your behalf and has imputed all His merits to your account, that you might be exceedingly rich through Him who for your sake became exceedingly poor. How great the debt of love and gratitude you owe to your Savior!