

**Easter Sunday**  
**Famous Last Words**

**Matthew 27:45-50**

<sup>45</sup> From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. <sup>46</sup> 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?”)

<sup>47</sup> When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

<sup>48</sup> Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. <sup>49</sup> The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

<sup>50</sup> And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

**Matthew 28:8**

<sup>8</sup> So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

**Transition**

- Jesus knows exactly what he is doing.
- He is not confused.
- He is not forgetting.
- He is willing.
- He has become the very thing that has separated us from God.
- He has become sin.

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

I. **Jesus was forsaken so I could be forgiven.**

**Matthew 27:45-46**

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A. Unpack text

1. Friday Afternoon - It was about 3:00 in the afternoon.
2. It was very dark... figuratively and literally.

3. Jesus was close to death and he knows it.
4. Matthew tells us that Jesus cries out in a loud voice.
5. It is stunning that he had the ability to even speak much less cry out loud enough for bystanders to hear him.
6. We are told both exactly what he said in Aramaic and well as the translation.
7. The Gospels left no room for misinterpretation.

***“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”)***

What is the deal? What is happening her and what does it mean for us.

**B. These words are the exact same first words from Psalm 22**

1. And that is important because Jesus seems to have known that the whole psalm, in some way or other, was about him.

**Psalm 22:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,  
so far from my cries of anguish?

<sup>2</sup> My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,  
by night, but I find no rest

**Psalm 22:7**

All who see me mock me;  
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

**Matthew 27:39**

Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads.

This psalm is being played out in the death of Jesus.

**Psalm 22:16**

Dogs surround me,  
a pack of villains encircles me;  
they pierce my hands and my feet.

**Psalm 22:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> All my bones are on display;  
people stare and gloat over me.

<sup>18</sup> They divide my clothes among them  
and cast lots for my garment.

2. So the words, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” are part of this psalm that contains, a script for Jesus’s last hours.

### Why did he say it?

- Three things.

#### **1. Jesus was really forsaken.**

- a. First, this was a real forsakenness.
- b. That is why. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” means he really did.
- c. He really did.
- d. He is bearing our sin.
- e. He bore our judgment.
- f. The judgment was to have God the Father pour out his wrath, and instead of pouring it out on us, he pours it out on Jesus - his own Son.

### **1 Peter 2:24**

“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

- g. That involves a kind of abandonment.

#### **h. That is what wrath means.**

- i. He gave him up to suffer the weight of all the sins of all of his people and the judgment for those sins.
- j. We cannot begin to fathom all that this would mean between the Father and the Son.
- k. To be forsaken by God is the cry of the damned, and he was damned for us.
- l. So he used these words because there was a real forsakenness.

#### **2. It is not a question looking for an answer, but a way of expressing the horrors of abandonment.**

- a. I have a couple of reasons for thinking this.
- b. “The judgment was to have God the Father pour out his wrath, and instead of pouring it out on us, he pours it out on his Son.”
  - 1.) Jesus knew ahead of time what he was doing and what would happen to him and why he was doing it.
  - 2.) His Father had sent him for this.
  - 3.) This very moment.

4.) And he had agreed to come, knowing all that would happen.

### **John 18:4**

Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?”

5.) He gave himself up. So he knew. He knew it was coming. He knew everything.

c. Another reason is the moment was one of agony, not theological curiosity.

- The moment was one of agony

d. Third, the fact that he is not asking a question so much as expressing a horror is that the words are a reflex of immersion in Psalm 22, it seems.

1.) They are a direct quotation. But when you are hanging on the cross you don't say: “Oh, I think I am going to quote some Scripture here.”

### **Psalm 22:22-24**

<sup>22</sup> I will declare your name to my people;  
in the assembly I will praise you.

<sup>23</sup> You who fear the LORD, praise him!  
All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!  
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

<sup>24</sup> For he has not despised or scorned  
the suffering of the afflicted one;  
he has not hidden his face from him  
but has listened to his cry for help.

- It either is in you as the very essence of your messianic calling or it is not.
- And if it is in you, then you give vent at the worst moment of your life with the appointment of your Father scripted in Psalm 22.
- So at some level he knows it is not a final cry or an ultimate cry.
- He endured the cross for the joy that was set before him and the “Why?” is not a request for a theological answer.

**It is a real cry of spiritual anguish with words that were second nature because his whole life was scripted by God.**

### **3. According to Plan**

a. And I think the last reason we should say is that this psalm was his life.

- b. Crying out reflexively in agony with these words of this psalm shows that, as horrible as it is, it was all going according to plan.
  - c. All of it was the fulfillment of Scripture — even the worst of it was the fulfillment of Scripture.
  - d. That moment was probably the worst moment in the history of the world, and it was Scripture coming to past.
  - e. Completely fulfilled – down to the worst part.
1. There was a real forsakenness for our sake.
  2. He was expressing desolation, not asking for an answer.
  3. He was amazingly fulfilling Scripture in the horror of it all and witnessing to the perfection of the plan of salvation.

**C. Jesus drinks the cup of God's wrath.**

1. This should have been for us.
2. The wrath of God is being pour out.
3. Jesus drinks the full cup of God's wrath.
4. **All of it.**

**Illustration**

- Maci ate Dramamine.
- Yum candy mommy.
- Poison Control
- Yeah you need to go to the hospital – right now.
- Poison control called ahead

“If you don't drink this right now they're going to come into this room and put a tube down your throat and suck everything out of your stomach into a bucket. Now drink this right now!

**Romans 6:23**

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Application**

- The good news of the cross is that Jesus took the WRATH of God so you would not have too.
- The payment for your sin – the payment for my sin is **DEATH.**
- BUT...
- Today is a GREAT DAY because we remember what Jesus did for us.
- What about you?
- Would you rather pay for your own sin or would you rather have Jesus pay for your sin.

## II. I can trust God.

### Matthew 27:50

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

### John 19:30

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

- A. One of the greatest things Jesus ever said was, "It is finished"
  - 1. My obedience is finished and perfect, and you need it.
  - 2. My suffering is finished, and you need it to cover all your sins.
  - 3. I have finished removing the wrath of God from my people.
  - 4. I have finished striking Satan with a death blow.
  - 5. I have established the new covenant for my people.
  - 6. It is finished.
- B. The decisive thing has been done.
- C. Jesus has finished the work he came to do.

### Will you trust Jesus?

- D. Trust is a funny thing.
  - 1. Trust requires vulnerability.
  - 2. In other words to trust Jesus I have to let my guard down.
  - 3. Why are you so guarded?
  - 4. Why are you so defensive?

### Illustration

- The enemy will use whatever he can to keep you from trusting God.
  - The world says keep your guard up
  - Jesus says come to me all who are heavy and I will give you rest.
- 5. Successful relationships depend on each side being honest and open with the other.
  - 6. Be vulnerable and express your feelings to trust others better.
  - 7. If your partner is expressing frustration or is going through a challenging time, be present and attentive to their needs.

## III. The resurrected Jesus wants to introduce himself to you.

### **Matthew 28:8-10**

<sup>8</sup>So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

#### A. Unpack Text

##### 1. The women when to the tomb to care for the body of Jesus.

The angel speaks to the women.

Angel tells them not to be afraid.

The angel tells the women that he knew they were looking for Jesus.

The Jesus who was crucified.

The angel tells the women that Jesus is no longer here; he has risen from the dead.

Just like he told you.

The angel invites the women to come and see the place where he was laid.

It was as if the Angel was in awe...

The angel had this special assignment roll the stone away.

And wait for the women.

The angel is sitting there on the stone that he single handedly rolled away and he is sitting on it looking into the tomb.

The angel had to be strong enough to roll the stone away by himself.

The Roman guards either pass out from being overwhelmed emotionally or they fall out because the power emanating from the angel was so powerful they could no longer stand.

The angel tell the women to go quickly.

There is an urgency in the message.

The angel would not tell the disciples – his job was to roll the stone away and tell the women.

The women were told to quickly go and tell the disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into galilee.

The angel informs the women to tell the men they will see Jesus in Galilee.

In other words, go to where Jesus is and you will be able to identify him.

The angel says “now I have told you” This was his assignment. He completed his assignment.

The angel would not be the one to tell everyone else that Jesus is alive it was not the responsibility of the women.

The women hurried away from the tomb. They moved quickly. This was urgent, exciting, life changing, If Jesus could be raised from the dead then anything is possible. Death no longer has the final say so. Jesus has power over death.

The women were afraid but were filled with joy. This was a very mixed bag of emotions. They were running to tell the disciples what the angel told them.

They were running to tell the disciples that Jesus was alive. This was the most important thing they could tell them. They felt an urgency. This was their main priority.

Suddenly – Jesus meets them.

They are running to tell the disciples that Jesus was alive and they were to go to Galilee and would see him when all of the sudden Jesus meets them there.

Jesus says, Greetings.

The women came up to Jesus and fall down and clasp his feet and worshipped him.

Jesus says to them.... “Do not be afraid”

Jesus says to the women tell the “brothers” to go to Galilee and he will see them there.

This is the exact same thing the Angel told the women to say.

The angel and Jesus both say the same thing to the women.