

LAST WORDS



WEEK OF 03/15/26

THE WORD--FORSAKEN

MT 27:45-50

Silence (1-2 minutes)

Sit silently for a minute as a way to center your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to help you listen to and receive God's Word.

Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Read: Matthew 27:45-50

Devotional

This week we will continue our series on the Last Words of Jesus. There are 7 recorded sentences that Jesus spoke while on the cross. First, we studied His prayer of forgiveness for His executioners. Second, we examined a promise He made of paradise to a criminal on the cross next to Him. Next, Jesus entrusted His mother's care to one of His disciples. Today, we will look at His cry of abandonment on the cross to God.

1. To set the stage for this set of scriptures, we often read so fast we can overlook details. Putting yourself at the hill with Jesus on the cross, close your eyes and relax. Try to imagine the scene before discussing the following questions:
 - o What do you see?
 - o What can you smell?
 - o What sounds do you hear?

Matthew 27:39-47 | In this passage we see people mocking Jesus, asking for some kind of proof that Jesus was the Messiah. Imagine the tone, ridicule and taunting that was going on. They were asking for a sign to prove that He was indeed the Messiah.

2. Using just 1 or 2 words, what kind of Messiah were they looking for?
3. In verse 45, something happened at noon during a full moon. This was no eclipse. It was too long for that. Was it a sign? If it wasn't a sign, what was it? (See Amos 8:9-10 for a clue).
4. Have you ever realized you missed God because you were blind to His sign?

Matthew 27:46 | Jesus speaks in Hebrew, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” *Cried* is a strong verb, used only here in the New Testament, indicating powerful emotion. One commentary says that it is the only time in the Gospels where Jesus addressed God without calling Him Father.

5. Who is Jesus crying out to? What do you think He is experiencing here? (See also 2 Corinthians 5:21)
6. Another commentary offers this explanation: “God the Father laid upon God the Son, all the guilt and wrath our sin deserved, and He bore it in Himself perfectly, totally satisfying the wrath of God for us.” What emotions – if any – come to mind as you ponder this?

Matthew 27:47-49 | This is the response of the crowd surrounding the cross, to Jesus’ words. After being on the cross of 6 hours and suffering severe blood loss from the scourging, Jesus would have been dehydrated. They heard “Eli Eli” and thought He was calling for Elijah, so His words must not have been clear. They wanted to know what He was saying, so they decided to give Him some sour wine perhaps so they could hear more clearly what He said.

7. What kind of words would you use to describe these people at the cross that Matthew is writing about in these verses?
8. Psalm 69:21, Psalm 22:14-18 describes what happens to Jesus in these verses. People were looking for a sign, they had experienced darkness and later an earthquake, but they completely missed both. What methodologies can you use to be more aware of God and His working around you?

Matthew 27:50 | This end to Jesus’ earthly life is almost a relief. Watching someone suffer, it’s hard to imagine being Mary at the foot of the cross, watching her son die this horrible death. This sentence was very critical because it shows us the depth of love that Jesus has for us. On one hand, we see the broken, bleeding, ravaged body of Jesus but on the other, this is God’s Son who has the power to perform miracles, raise people from the dead, and heal everything! Yet He stayed on the cross. The word translated “yielded up” is in the active tense. This means that His spirit wasn’t taken but it was given.

BIG IDEA: He cried in the darkness--for me. He was mocked in the suffering—for me. His life was given—for me.

9. What does Jesus' death mean about our worth, our identity and our behavior towards other people?
10. What ways can you remind yourself of this in your dark days?
11. Bonus (Optional): Read verse 57
 - What events provoked the Roman Centurian to make this claim?
 - What is unusual about his reaction in this context?
 - What did Jesus do that may have provoked this reaction?

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, we praise You for reaching down to us through your Son Jesus to bring us back into fellowship with You. We bow at Jesus suffering on the cross knowing that it was for us He stayed on the cross, bearing our sins, experiencing total separation from You – that we might be joined together with You now and for eternity. Give us the wisdom to compel us to use our words, our actions and our view of others so that You shine clearly. In Jesus' Holy Name, Amen.

Share Prayer Requests (10-15 minutes)