

Jesus Experiences True Death: Separation from God

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me?...All those who see me mock me. They insult me with their lips...“He trusts in Yahweh; let him deliver him. Let him rescue him, since he delights in him.” – Psalm 22:1-7

[Matthew 27:45-56, Calvary, Thursday]
Now from the sixth hour *the sun was darkened*.
There was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.
About the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lima sabachthani?” That is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” [Psalm 22:1]

Some of them who stood there, when they heard it, said, “Behold, This man is calling Elijah.”

Immediately one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him a drink. The rest said, “Let him be. Let’s see whether Elijah comes to save him.”

After this, Jesus, seeing that all things were now finished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I am thirsty.” Now a vessel full of vinegar was set there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop, and held it at his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, “It is finished.” Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” Having said this, he bowed his head, breathed his last, and gave up his spirit.

Behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. The earth quaked and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after his

**Father, into your hands
I commit my spirit!**

resurrection, they entered into the holy city and appeared to many. Now the centurion, and those who were with him watching Jesus, when they saw that he cried out like this and breathed his last, and saw the earthquake, and the things that were done, feared exceedingly, saying, “Truly this was the Son of God.”

Many women were there watching from afar, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, serving him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the less and Joses, and Salome, the mother of the sons of Zebedee, and many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

Therefore the Jews, because it was the Preparation Day, so that the bodies wouldn’t remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special one), asked of Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Therefore the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who was crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was already dead, they didn’t break his legs. However one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. He who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, that you may believe. For these things happened, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, “A bone of him will not be broken.” [Exodus 12:46] Again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they pierced.” [Zechariah 12:10] [Mark 15:33-41, Luke 23:44-49, John 19:28-37]

1. Why does Jesus say that God forsook him? Have you felt like God forsook you? Did he?

2. What is “finished”? Who saw Jesus die? How did they respond? How do you respond?

3. Jesus, you were willingly cut off from your Father so I don’t have to be cut off; thank you...