

Last Words from the Cross: Forsaken Me

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Matthew 27:45-50

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

The goodness in this world is all God's – the evidence that He is there

We humans are to blame for the corruption.

- *What happens in our relationship with God when we swap these truths?
- *What scriptural and earthly examples do you see to show this is true?
- *What is our typical understanding of just how good or bad humans are?

There has never been a greater moment of human suffering than here

On the cross, we see the evil of humans in full bloom

Read and discuss Matthew 27:45-50(ESV)

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." ⁴⁸ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

- *What evil do we see in this moment? What goodness?
- *How do we understand what is happening here – theologically? Relationally?
- *What does the cross reveal about what God does in the face of human evil?
- *How do Jesus's words here resonate with you? How are these words good news for you?

Jesus already carried your sin, your shame, and your judgment on the cross

You should set those things down and let him carry it.

- *Why do you think we continue to try to carry sin and shame around?
- *Where have you tried to 'earn it?' What has that led to in your life?
- *How can this moment lead us to honesty and wonder?

God's true face is the forsaken face of Jesus

Read and discuss Matthew 27:51- 54(ESV)

⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

- *What do these verses show us about God? About us?
- *What is He asking you to see about His true face? Is he what you expected?

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