

Anguish

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Baby Dedication: *Scarlett Lily Hallen*. Joshua & Amanda. (Jack 3)
- B. Slide3-5 Larry: Women's Retreat. *Better Together*. *Save the Date*. *Children's Min/Easter*.
- C. Slide6a vs. & Prayer: 2 Cor.4:8,9 *We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.* Lord, we've all felt forsaken, abandoned, deserted. It's ugly, dark & lonely.

II. Intro:

- A. Slide6b Mt.27:45-49 *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?" [el-EE, el-EE, le-MA sabach-THANI] that is, "My God, my Slide7 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."*
- B. The 4th Word uttered from the Cross stands at **the center** of the 7. [Like 1st & the 7th, it's a prayer]
 - 1. It's a question, the **only question** Jesus addressed to the Father.
- C. So far...He has **prayed** for his persecutors. He has **promised life** to a thief. He has made **provisions** for His mother...now the scene changes.
 - 1. 3 hours have gone by since His last words. **It's now right at 3pm.**
 - a) The world's **light** is dim. The **air** is thick. The **cross** is quiet. The **world** is lost. *until this...*
 - b) At his **birth** there was a **great light** (a star). **Now** at his **death**, **great darkness**.
- D. The man who for 3 yrs preached **trust in God**...is dying. **And** in the last moments on earth *it almost sounds like* He is unable to practice what He has been preaching???
- 1. I think of all the martyrs who **didn't want to let down their Lord** in their death....**Yet** here we have Jesus crying out *My God, My God why...*
- 2. What impression did this have on **those who 1st heard Him?**

3. What did **Caiaphas & company** think, who already said, *He trusts in God, let God deliver him now!* But God *didn't*, & not only that but Jesus seemed to take their side by declaring himself **forsaken**.

4. Uhh, how did **the thief** feel now? He had a **100% Assurance** from Messiah Himself...but where was that **assurance** now?

a) Jesus who was so confident to **win & take** His new friend w/Him. But was this nothing more than *a blind man, undertaking to lead the blind???*

E. Slide8 In 1967, *Maj. William "Pete" Knight*, flew NASA's/U.S.A.F. **X-15** & set the highest recorded speed record of a *manned powered aircraft* at the Hypersonic speed of Mach 6.70 (4,520mph), at an elevation of 102,100'. Which remains unbroken today in 2019

1. Slide9a What we are talking about this morning, is that *on the cross* we witness **2 Fighter Aircraft** traveling at their top speeds, heading straight for each other. *One w/a full payload of God's inflexible Holiness. The other filled w/ Amazing Grace in all its wonder...and they collide right here at the cross.*

F. Slide9b Here is this morning's question: *Was Jesus really forsaken by God?*

A: Yes, because of **3 Collisions**: [our outline]

1. Inflexible Holiness & Amazing Grace.
2. Dirty Hands & A Run Away Goat.
3. A Debt Owed & A Price Paid.

III. Slide10a **INFLEXIBLE HOLINESS & AMAZING GRACE** 1st Collision

A. Was Jesus *really* forsaken by God? Yes, because of God's *Inflexible Holiness & Amazing Grace*.

B. **YES, JESUS WAS REALLY FORSAKEN**

C. He had already been **forsaken** by the **religious leaders**. By most of His family. By his closest friends...but he fortified himself with, *Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.* Jn.16:32

1. But now, the Father's face was hidden - *Thus he experienced being forsaken of God & man.*

2. Here, the horror of the Crucifixion reached its **climax**.

3. **Slide10b** This was, *The Crucifixion within The Crucifixion*.

D. **Forsaken**...such a terrible word - *to leave helpless, to desert or abandon. Leave high & dry, turn your back on. To leave someone stranded, ditched, left behind.*

1. **Slide10c** Lit. *God of me, God of me, why me have you forsaken?*

a) *Where did you go? Why have you left me? (Job's Cry in 23:8,9 Look, I go forward, but He is not there, And backward, but I cannot perceive Him; When He works on the left hand, I cannot behold Him; When He turns to the right hand, I cannot see Him)*

E. **SO YES, JESUS WAS REALLY FORSAKEN**

1. Jesus wasn't an actor. He felt **alone**.

2. He was **alone** in the desert (temptation). **Alone** on the mountain (Prayer). **Alone** in the garden (Gethsemane). **And now alone** in *the worst way on the Cross*.

3. **Loneliness** is one of the chief problems in life.

a) **Widows & widowers** deal w/loneliness. As do **singles**. Even **married couples** (who can sleep in the same bed **& yet** be relationally worlds apart).

4. God told Abraham, *Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him.*

a) **Yet**, as Jesus hung on the cross, the voice that **cried out** on Mount Moriah **was now silent** at Calvary. *He was actually forsaken.*

5. And there...**He drifts behind the back of God**.

a) Yet, **Jesus** could say with **Job**, *Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.* (13:15)

F. **GOD MUST HAVE INFLEXIBLE HOLINESS**

G. **Note**, this is the only time in the gospel accounts that **Jesus** refers to Him as **God** rather than **Father**. (*Not, My Father, My Father, why...*)

1. *You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness.*
Hab.1:13

2. No one around could answer His question. No one at the cross. No, not even the angels. **But Ps.22** De-Codes the mystery.

- a) Slide11a *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? 2 O my God, I cry by day (9-noon), but you do not answer, and by night (12-3pm), but I find no rest. Ps.22:1,2*
 - b) Slide11b **Then** in vs.3 we find the answer: *Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.*
 - c) By quoting Ps.22 Jesus was saying, *I understand Father. Since, you are Holy, & I am full of Sin* [not mine, but of others] *You must give me this stroke of divine wrath.*
 - d) Slide11c/d **But** this was a cry of **distress** not of *distrust*. *A cry not looking for answers but a way of expressing the horrors of abandonment.*
3. Ps.22 written by **David** (10th cent bc). Crucifixion wasn't even **invented** until the 7th cent bc. *The Persians invented crucifixion & the Romans perfected it.*
- a) Since David was a Prophet (Acts 2:30) He prophesied here in detail, of a crucifixion. **Note the accuracy of it:** (vs.1) His cry to the Father. (2) The period of darkness. (6-8)The ridicule & mocking of the people. (14,15) His thirst & pain. (16) His pierced hands & feet. (18) The gambling of his clothes. [all 7 quoted from Ps.22 in the gospels]

IV. Slide12a **DIRTY HANDS & A RUN AWAY GOAT** 2nd Collision

A. Was Jesus **really** forsaken by God? Yes, because of man's *Dirty Hands & Jesus, the Run Away Goat.*

B. **RUN GOAT RUN** [Max Lucado, *No Wonder they Call Him Savior*]

The crowd quietens as the priest receives the goat; the pure, unspotted goat. In somber ceremony he places his hands on the young animal. As the people witness, the priest makes his proclamation. "The sins of the people be upon you." The innocent animal receives the sins of the Israelites. All the lusting, adultery, & cheating are transferred from the sinners to this goat, to this scapegoat. He is then carried to the edge of the wilderness & released. Banished. Sin must be purged, so that the scapegoat is abandoned.

"Run, goat! Run!"

The people are relived. Yahweh is appeased. The sinbearer is alone. **And now** on Skull's hill, the sinbearer is again **alone**. Every lie ever told, every object ever coveted, every promise ever broken is on His shoulders. **He is sin**. God turns away. **"Run, goat! Run!"**

1. Slide12b This was from Lev.16 (2 goats: 1 goat killed, a sin offering, blood sprinkled on mercy seat. 1 goat left alive. High priest lay hands on, confessing all Israel's sins. Then sent away into the wilderness. *The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness*)

V. Slide13a A DEBT OWED & A PRICE PAID 3rd Collision

A. **God has some unchangeable laws** [If man breaks them, a *Just God* must *mete out justice*]

1. *The wages of sin is death. The soul that sins must die.*
2. Slide13b P.T.Forsyth, *God must either inflict punishment or assume it. And he chose the latter course.*
3. Someone must pay the penalty of a broken law. Jesus said, *I'll pay it. I will go to the cross. I will satisfy the law. I will suffer in man's place.*
4. Here on the cross **Jesus**, *taking, bearing, carrying, wearing* the **sin** of the world

B. **What is taking sin upon Him?**

1. Is.53:6b *and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*
2. *Imagine your worse sin you've ever committed. Remember the guilt, shame, embarrassment, anxiety, fears, paranoia, & hurt it caused others...& that's just 1 sin, of 1 person, of 1 generation, of 1 century, of 1 millennium.*
 - a) Therein lays **the weight** Christ took upon himself.

C. Slide13c **The Great Exchange**

D. 2 Cor.5:21^{nlt} *For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.*

1. **He paid a debt He didn't owe, we owed a debt we couldn't pay.**
2. **So** let me get this right, an **exchange** took place. **Yep.**
3. Namely, my rotten life **for** His **Righteous Life**? **Yep.**
4. **So God treated Christ like He live our life, and God treats us as if we've lived His life. Yep.**

E. Slide14a **Bee Sting Analogy**

- F. **Original sin** gave every human *Anaphylaxis* (a hypersensitivity to the bee sting).
1. In OT: Man carried a shot of *Epinephrine* around for when he was *stung w/sin*.
 - a) He quickly needed an injection of Epinephrine, *which was the blood of an animal sacrifice*.
 2. In NT: At Calvary, Jesus took upon Him **everyone's Anaphylaxis**. *Thus not only dealing w/the stung individuals but more importantly the Bee itself*.
 - a) He grabs the **bee** in His hand & takes the **sting**. The Savior takes upon Himself *Anaphylactic shock*.
 - b) The **Bee** falls dead, **but** so does **the One** who willingly took *the stinger* for us.
 - c) *Slide14b O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor.15:55-57*
- G. *Slide15a* Believers we will **never** be *God-Forsaken*.
- H. **Have you ever been forsaken?** (*or abandoned, deserted, left high & dry, stranded, ditched, left behind, someone turn their back on you*. Maybe a parent, a spouse, a boyfriend, girlfriend, best friend?)
1. *We all have been forsaken, to different degrees...by man!* **But not** by **God**.
 2. You may think that **God** has abandoned you (listen carefully) **but** if you are His...**He has NOT!** How do I know...
 - a) *Where does I will never leave you nor forsake you come from?* Deut.31:6,8.
 - b) This promise was 1st given to **Israel...then**, repeated to **Joshua** in Deut.31. [*Then* repeated by God Himself to Joshua *3 more x's* in Josh.1]
 - c) *Slide15b* It is also given to **us** today. *Because it's a cool promise that we pretend apply's to us too?* **No** because it's repeated to us in Heb.13:5 *I will never leave you nor forsake you*.
 3. I'm sure you have been forsaken by **parents** **or** your **children**, by someone that was once **close** to you...**but never by God!**
 - a) *Slide15c* Jesus said, *My God My God why have you forsaken Me*, **so** we can say... *My God My God **You** will never forsake me*.