



THE FINAL WORD

JESUS' REMARKABLE STATEMENTS LEADING TO HIS DEATH STUDY QUESTIONS AND CONVERSATION GUIDE

It is a curious thing to discover a condemned man's last words. Some desperately plead their innocence, others express their remorse or regret, and others obstinately justify their horrendous behavior. The truly innocent One, Jesus, did none of that, but instead ministered even while he waited to die. In this series, we will hang on each word our Savior uttered.

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FORSAKEN - A PROPHECY FULFILLED

This is the most heart-wrenching cries – one of a wrongly condemned man pleading with God. Many critics scoff at this scene, after all, Jesus KNEW his mission. Why then, the question?

QUESTIONS

- We have been looking at the final words of Jesus before he died on the cross. Let's quickly review the day's events. At this point, how long has Jesus been hanging on the cross? What is his physical condition?
- Darkness has covered the land for hours by this time. It's colder, and it's a waiting game. It must have jarred people to attention when Jesus cried in a loud voice – what was so significant about this cry?
- Was this a prophesy fulfillment? Where?
- What was the reaction of the crowd? Why were they looking for Elijah? Did they think Elijah was the Messiah?
- John MacArthur stated, "Jesus did not die as a martyr to a righteous cause or simply as an innocent man wrongly accused and condemned. Nor, as some suggest, did He die as a heroic gesture against man's inhumanity to man. The Father could have looked favorably on such selfless deaths as those. But because Jesus died as a substitute sacrifice for the sins of the world, the righteous heavenly Father had to judge Him fully according to that sin." Let's consider this.

- If Jesus is God, how can he forsake himself? How can the God who is One forsake his son? Is this a mystery that none can fathom?
- What does this work of God reveal to us about the magnitude of our sin?
- What is the proper response to this sacrificial act of Jesus?

SPRINGBOARD VERSE

Matthew 27:46 ESV

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?"

Habakkuk 1:13 ESV

You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?