

The Psalm of the Cross

Matthew 27:45-56 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶ About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

⁴⁷ When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split ⁵² and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

⁵⁵ Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. ⁵⁶ Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.

Introduction (Psalm 22)

1. Prophetic

- 1.1 Jesus (John 19:30)
- 1.2 David wrote these words prophetically (1 Pet. 1:11)

2. Personal

- 2.1 Jesus had emotions – abandoned, desperate, overwhelmed
- 2.2 No one is bullet-proof

3. Two sections

- 3.1 A cry for help (Ps. 22:1-21)
- 3.2 A song of praise (Ps. 22:22-31)

Jesus’ Cry for Help (Ps 22:1-18)

1. His anguish (Ps. 22:1-10)

- 1.1 Abandoned (Ps 22:1-2)
 - (a) By the Father (John 10:30)
 - (b) Application – have you felt abandoned? God understands
- 1.2 Mocked by men (Ps. 22:7-8)
 - (a) Mocked by the priests, teachers and elders (Matt. 27:41)
 - (b) Application – have you experienced it?

2. His appeal (Ps. 22:11-18)

- 2.1 God's presence is an antidote for suffering – example of Job
- 2.2 Surrounded, weak and attacked – turn to God (Jam. 5:13)

Jesus' Song of Praise (Ps 22:19-31)

1. His shout of joy (Ps. 22:21)

- 1.1 Answered prayer
- 1.2 God-centred testimony

2. Jesus, the preacher (Ps. 22:28)

- 2.1 His ministry – the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt. 4:17)
- 2.2 Today – in His church

Conclusion

- 1. All must hear**
- 2. The next generation**

Ron's Quote:

*“We can receive God's peace by surrendering what we feel,
Not suppressing what we feel”*