

Cries From The Cross

A journey into the heart of Jesus

Devotionals adapted and edited from the book,
Cries from the Cross: A Journey into the Heart of Jesus by Erwin W. Lutzer

EASTER DEVOTIONAL SERIES | THE "EXCITING" SINGING HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH | 2022

Week 4: A Cry of Anguish

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

†Matthew 27:46 NKJV †

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?"

This cry of dereliction; lands in the middle of the seven saying from the cross. Forgiveness, assurance, and compassion. Then, in the middle of God's greatest display of grace, a groan... a moan... a loud voice bellowing from someplace deep within our Savior's soul. If you listen, you can hear the pain. You can sense the anguish. The first three cries were uttered in daylight. By now the sun has taken hiatus from sight as the Son hung suspended between heaven and earth. Nature shrouded the suffering of its Creator with darkness.

A word of understanding: God the Father was not punishing God the Son. The atoning death of Christ was

necessary in order that we be redeemed. We must lean on the biblical fact: The saving work of Christ originated in the heart of the Father. The Bible teaches that, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." The will of the Father and the will of the Son coincided in the perfect self-sacrifice of love.

"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Jesus' words demonstrate a break in fellowship, not a breach in the fundamental unity of the Father and the Son. Only here in the Gospel record does Jesus address His Father as "God" This address further signified the break in fellowship between Father and Son; between the righteousness of God the Father and the ugliness of our sins borne on the shoulders of His Son.

Series Overview

Week 1	A Cry of Pardon Luke 23:34
Week 2	A Cry of Assurance Luke 23:43
Week 3	A Cry of Compassion John 19:26-27
Week 4	A Cry of Anguish Mark 15:34

Passion Week

Monday	A Cry of Suffering John 19:28
Wednesday	A Cry of Victor John 19:30
Good Friday	A Cry of Submission Luke 23:46

Keep in mind that Christ was not forced to suffer. He chose to suffer. God, the Father chose to redeem humanity through the suffering of His Son, Jesus. With this question; this cry of dereliction, this prayer of anguish; the full display of Jesus' humanity shines forth for all to see. Jesus was all human... and all divine. In His humanity, He felt the pain and stain of sin; even though He had never sinned. In His divinity, no one ever died like Jesus died and no one ever will. The Father forsook the Son because His holiness required it. Jesus was declared cursed in our place that we might be set free.

Question to Explore This Week: How will you exhibit gratitude in your lifestyle knowing that Christ Jesus died for your sins?

The first purpose of the cross was not for us, but for God. The shed blood of Calvary covered our sins. Notice there was no response from the Father... only silence. As we approach Easter, let us rest in the silence of Heaven. There are so many needs, cares, concerns, criticisms, and conundrums to contemplate in our daily experiences. As our Lord's Christ cried out, we too, will cry out. In that season, listen for the silence of God. Of course He hears you, and in silence you will be able to discern God's desire and direction for your life. Listen for the silence of God. Long to lean upon Him...and upon Him only. Cry out to Him, "My God, My God!" ... then listen.