



THE ROAD TO RESURRECTION

JESUS' FINAL WORDS

Recap: March 17, 2026

Speaker: Bishop A.L. Smith Jr

Title: **Forsaken**

Scripture: Psalm 22:1, Matthew 27:46

Overview:

Jesus enters the darkest depths of human pain, expressing the cry of abandonment that every soul has felt. He is fully God, yet fully willing to feel our anguish.

Point One - The agony of the Forsaken One - Psalm 22:1

- **My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me:** This psalm begins abruptly, with a disturbing scene: someone who knows and trusts God is forsaken, and cries out to God in agony.
 - His is a Psalm of David, and there were many instances in the life of David where he might write such an agonized poem. Before and after taking the throne of Israel, David lived in seasons of great danger and deprivation.
 - While this psalm was certainly true of King David in his life experience, it – like many psalms – is even truer of Jesus the Messiah than of David. Jesus deliberately chose these words to describe His agony on the cross
- **My God, My God:** This opening is powerful on at least two levels. The cry “**My God**” shows that the Jesus truly did have a relationship with God. He was a victim of the cruelty of men, but the cry and the complaint is to God – even **My God** – and not to or against man. Second, the repetition of the plea shows the intensity of the agony.
- **Why have You forsaken Me?** There is a note of surprise in this cry and in the following lines. The Forsaken One seems bewildered; “Why would My God forsake Me? Others may deserve such, but I cannot figure out why He would forsake Me.”
 - On the cross, a holy transaction took place. God the Father regarded God the Son as if He were a sinner. As the Apostle Paul would later write, God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - Yet Jesus not only endured the withdrawal of the Father’s fellowship, but also the actual outpouring of the Father’s wrath upon Him as a substitute for sinful humanity. To be forsaken means to have the light of God’s countenance and the sense of his presence eclipsed, which is what happened to Jesus as he bore the wrath of God against sin for us.

- Horrible as this was, it fulfilled God's good and loving plan of redemption. Therefore Isaiah could say Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him (Isaiah 53:10).
- Psalm 22:1 was written by King David. As a prophetic psalm, it was composed around 1,000 years before the crucifixion of Jesus, describing the Messiah's suffering, rejection, and death in detail.

Point Two - Jesus cries out to the Father in agony. - Matthew 27:46

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?"

- **My God, My God:** In quoting Psalm 22, Jesus declared His fulfillment of that prophecy, in both its agony and in its exultation.
 - Cried (anaboao, used only here in the New Testament) is a strong verb indicating powerful emotion or appeal to God."
 - This is, remarkably, the only time in the Gospels where Jesus addressed God without calling him 'Father'.
- **Why have You forsaken Me?** Jesus had known great pain and suffering (both physical and emotional) during His life. Yet He had never known separation from His Father. At this moment, He experienced what He had not yet ever experienced. There was a significant sense in which Jesus rightly felt forsaken by the Father at this moment.
 - "His one moan is concerning his God. It is not, 'Why has Peter forsaken me? Why has Judas betrayed me?' Those things cut, but this cut the deepest."
- **Why have You forsaken Me?** The agony of this cry is significant. It rarely grieves man to be separated from God or to consider that he is a worthy object of God's wrath, yet this was the true agony of Jesus on the cross. At some point before He died, before the veil was torn in two, before He cried out it is finished, an awesome spiritual transaction took place. God the Father laid upon God the Son all the guilt and wrath our sin deserved, and He bore it in Himself perfectly, totally satisfying the wrath of God for us.
 - As horrible as the physical suffering of Jesus was, this spiritual suffering – the act of being judged for sin in our place – was what Jesus really dreaded about the cross. This was the cup – the cup of God's righteous wrath – that He trembled at drinking (Luke 22:39-46, Psalm 75:8, Isaiah 51:17, Jeremiah 25:15). On the cross, Jesus became, as it were, an enemy of God who was judged and forced to drink the cup of the Father's fury. He did it so we would not have to drink that cup.
 - We can imagine the answer to Jesus' question: Why? "Because My Son, You have chosen to stand in the place of guilty sinners. You, who have never known sin, have made the infinite sacrifice to become sin and receive My just wrath upon sin and sinners. You do this because of Your great love, and because of My great love."