

Sermon-Based Bible Study

MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY?

“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46, KJV). This cry is a fulfillment of Psalm 22:1, one of many parallels between that psalm and the specific events of the crucifixion. It is difficult to understand in what sense Jesus was “forsaken” by God. It is certain that God approved His work. It is certain that Jesus was innocent. He had done nothing to forfeit the favor of God. So, why?

1. What is your go-to answer when you’re going through hard/tough times?
2. We have all experienced tragedies and difficult situations that have caused us to ask the question, “Why, God?” What are some of the “why” questions you have asked?
3. Describe a time when you felt completely alone or abandoned by God. How did God ultimately show you that you were not alone?
4. Read Isaiah 55:8-9, Mark 10:18, Romans 8:31-33, and Proverbs 3:5-6. These verses show us that God is good, God is for us, and God is with us when we endure times of difficulty we don’t understand.
 - How have you experienced God’s goodness while enduring tough times?
 - What are some of the frustrations or questions you are currently struggling with? How can you change your “why” to “what” in each of these areas?
 - How have the tragedies and trials you have experienced throughout your life ultimately shaped you into the person you are today? What did they teach you about God?
 - What types of things do you think God is trying to tell you through the difficulties you’re facing right now?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and 1 Peter 2:24: What do these passages teach us about why the Father would forsake Jesus?
6. Use these prayer tips/prompts to talk it over with God and to expand your conversations both in person and with the group:
 - In prayer, confess those areas of your life where you feel abandoned by God. Ask Him for His comfort.
 - Commit to God in prayer that you will strive to grow your trust in Him, especially during tough times.
 - Thank God for all the times He has shown His love to you during difficult circumstances. Praise Him.
 - Pray and ask God to show you “what” instead of “why” when it comes to enduring things in your life you don’t understand.
 - Pray for someone you know who’s dealing with a tragedy or going through hard times. Ask God to comfort them.