

Resurrection sermon on Psalm 22

Guiding questions: My God, my God, why have I/we forsaken you? What needs to be resurrected in my/our life?

A) The prayers of the cross

- I. Read verses 1 – 5
- II. Jesus recited v. 1 in Matthew 27:46/Mark 15:34 as a way of calling listeners' attention to Psalm 22, showing himself to be fulfilling the prophecy of said text.
- III. Is my attitude in my prayer life like that of Jesus in garden (Matthew 26:36-46)?
- IV. Have I/we fallen asleep (spiritually speaking)?

B) The pain of the cross

- I. Read verses 6 – 8
- II. What part of the cross moves you most?
- III. For me, it is this: Matthew 27:39-43. The thought of Jesus bleeding, bloody nose, black eyes, swollen lip, back looking like minced meat, nails in his hands and feet, and people are STILL mocking him.
- IV. The mockers saying "If God is really your father, why doesn't he save you?" Those of us who are parents would do anything to stop our children from going through pain, if it is in our power. God absolutely has the power to do something, but there is NO way to save both Jesus and us, so he lets Jesus suffer and die this way.
- V. When is the last time the cross moved you/me? (Passion of the Christ movie, a cross study you sat in on, or when you studied the cross before your baptism)

C) The shame of the cross

- I. Read verses 14-18
- II. Jesus fought hard for our salvation
- III. Do I/we still take up our own cross daily?
- IV. In our struggle against sin, do we imitate Jesus? Have we resisted sin with fervor (Hebrews 12:1-4)?
- V. Jesus was shamed and humiliated on the cross. Them casting lots for his garments may imply that he was crucified naked, which would explain the women looking on from a distance (Matthew 27:55)

D) The joy of vindication

- I. Read verses 27-31

II. This is a Psalm that ends in joy.

III. We often tell people that God hid his face from Jesus while he was on the cross, but is that necessarily true? See verse 24.

IV. While Matthew and Mark record the question from Psalm 22:1, they both only state that Jesus gave out a loud cry right before he died. Luke's gospel tells us what he cried out: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" (Luke 23:46), which is Jesus reciting Psalm 31:5.

V. What was on the mind of Christ as he died? Well, he cited Psalm 22:1 and then Psalm 31:5, it is a worthwhile exercise to read Psalm 22:1-Psalm 31:5. These are Psalms of hope, joy, trust (The Lord is my shepherd, the Lord is my light and my salvation, etc). Jesus died TRUSTING GOD.

VI. Psalm 22's last verses talk about telling future generations that of what he has done ("It is finished!"). Who can we share this with in the coming weeks, particularly as Easter approaches?