

Approximately 40 minutes Topical



A Christian Sermon on Mark 15:33-41 **“The Cry from the Cross and the** **Shadow of Psalm 22”:**

Opening Prayer:

Father God, we come to You in the name of Jesus. We ask that You would open our hearts and minds to Your Word. Help us not just to understand the Cross mentally, but to receive it personally and worshipfully. Show us the love of Christ, the cost of our salvation, and the glory of Your redemptive plan. Strengthen the believer, awaken the wandering heart, and draw the lost to Yourself today. In Jesus’ mighty name, Amen.

Quick Historical Setting:

Mark's Gospel moves fast and powerfully. It presents Jesus as the Servant-King...always moving, always ministering, always obeying the Father. By the time we come to Mark 15, Jesus has been betrayed, falsely accused, mocked, beaten, scourged, and nailed to a Roman cross.

Crucifixion was one of the cruelest forms of execution the world has ever known. It was designed not only to kill a man, but to humiliate him in public. The Romans used it to crush rebellion and spread fear. But what men meant for evil, God used for the salvation of the world.

At Calvary, this was not an accident. This was not history spinning out of control.

👉 This was the Lamb of God laying down His life for sinners. Jesus was not merely a victim of Roman power or Jewish rejection.

He was the fulfillment of the Father's eternal plan.

And in Mark 15:33-41, we come to one of the holiest moments in all of Scripture.

Let us look into God's Word.....

Mark 15:33-41 (NIV) ³³ ***At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").***

³⁵ ***When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."***

³⁶ ***Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.***

37 With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

38 The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. 39 And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

40 Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome.

👉 suh-LOH-mee 41 In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

These verses take us into mystery, prophecy, suffering, judgment, and victory all at once.

1. The Darkness Was Not Ordinary ... It Was a Sign of Judgment:

Mark tells us that from noon until three in the afternoon, darkness covered the land.

That is striking.

Noon is when the sun should be blazing at its brightest. But instead, darkness falls.

This was no ordinary darkness. This was heaven's testimony to what was happening on that Cross.

In the Bible, darkness is often associated with judgment.

- In Exodus, darkness fell over Egypt during the plagues.
- In the prophets, darkness is connected to the day of the Lord.

So here at Calvary, this supernatural darkness is telling us something very serious:

👉 Jesus is entering into the place of judgment.

👉 The wrath that should have fallen on us is falling on Him.

👉 The sinless **Son of God** is standing in the place of guilty sinners.

For the new believer, this is important to understand: Jesus did not die merely as an example of love.

- He did die in love, but He also died as our substitute. He took what we deserved. He bore our sin. He took our judgment.

This is why the Cross is at the very heart of Christianity.

Our faith is not built on helpful advice about how to live better.

👉 It is built on what Jesus already finished for us through His sacrifice on the Cross.

2. “My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?”:

Then Jesus cries out, **“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”** (v.15:34)

This is one of the most profound cries ever uttered.

Jesus had been mocked by men.

- He had been beaten by soldiers.
- He had been rejected by the leaders.

But now we are taken deeper.

Now we see Him bearing something beyond physical pain. He is entering into the horror of sin-bearing.

The One who had always lived in perfect fellowship with the Father was now experiencing the awful weight of separation as He carried the sin of the world.... something so deep and holy that we can never fully understand it.

Now let us be careful here. Jesus did not stop being God. The Trinity did not fall apart. But in His role as the sin-bearing Substitute, Jesus experienced the terrible reality of judgment. He was drinking the cup the Father had given Him. He was enduring the penalty that sin deserves.


This is why this cry is so weighty.

And yet there is something else here that every Jew standing there would understand.

Jesus is quoting **Psalm 22:1**.

3. Every Jew Would Recognize the Connection to Psalm 22:

When Jesus cried, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” the Jews standing there would not have thought in terms of “Psalm 22:1,” because the Bible did not yet have chapter and verse numbers. The chapter divisions commonly used today

were added much later, usually credited to Stephen Langton in the early 1200s, and the standard New Testament verse divisions were added by Robert Estienne  **ess-tee-EN** in 1551. So when Jesus spoke those words, His Jewish hearers would have recognized the psalm by its opening line and understood that He was pointing them back to the whole message of Psalm 22.

So Jesus was not speaking random words of despair. He was deliberately directing attention to Psalm 22.

And Psalm 22 is astonishing.

It begins with suffering, anguish, rejection, and mockery. But it ends in triumph, justification, and worldwide worship.

Listen to the connections:

Psalm 22 says, (NIV)

“All who see me mock me; they hurl

insults, shaking their heads.” (v.7)

That is exactly what happened at the Cross.

Psalm 22 says,

“...They pierce my hands and my feet.”

(v.16)

That is a vivid picture of crucifixion, written centuries before crucifixion was even practiced in Israel.

Psalm 22 says,

“They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.” (v.18)

Again, exactly fulfilled at Calvary.

So when Jesus cried out that first line, the Jewish listener who knew the Scriptures should have understood: **This is the righteous sufferer of Psalm 22. This is the fulfillment. This is the Messiah suffering before entering glory.**

👉 What seemed like defeat was actually the unfolding of prophecy.

👉 What looked like abandonment was actually the accomplishment of redemption.

🔑 And that is a vital lesson for us. Sometimes what looks like disaster is actually God fulfilling His purposes at a level we cannot yet see.

4. Psalm 22 Begins in Suffering but Ends in Victory:

This is where the connection becomes even richer.

Psalm 22 does not end with forsakenness.

- It ends with confidence that God has heard.
- It ends with proclamation.
- It ends with future generations being told about the Lord.
- It ends with the nations turning to worship Him.

In other words, Psalm 22 moves from the Cross to the Kingdom.

- It moves from suffering to victory.
- It moves from agony to accomplishment.

🔒 That means when Jesus spoke the first line, He was not only identifying His suffering. He was also pointing to the entire prophetic arc of the psalm.

The Cross was not the end of the story.

- Resurrection was coming.
- Vindication was coming.
- Salvation was being purchased.
- The Gospel would go to the nations.

👉 Future generations would hear what God had done.

And here we are, generations later, still proclaiming the message of the Cross.

Psalm 22 was fulfilled before their eyes, and its message is still reaching the world.

That is why mature believers never move past the Cross.

The longer we walk with Jesus, the more precious and amazing the Cross becomes. It is not just the place where Christianity begins....**it is the very center of our faith**, and we keep coming back to it with greater wonder and deeper worship.

💡 It is all about Jesus!!!

5. The Veil Torn in Two Access Is Now Open:

Mark says: **Mark 15:37-38**(NIV)

37 With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

38 The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

This is Amazing....

The temple curtain was there to keep the Holy Place separate from the Most Holy Place, showing that sinful man could not freely enter the presence of a holy God.

The Bible does not tell us its exact thickness, but later Jewish tradition describes it as extremely thick....about a handbreadth. So if someone says the temple curtain was a handbreadth thick, they mean it was approximately (4) inches thick.

💡 Let that sink in a minute....

So when God tore that curtain at the death of Jesus, He was declaring that the way into His presence had now been opened through **the finished work of Christ**.

But when Jesus died, the veil was torn from **top to bottom**.

👉 God tore it.

Man did not open the way to God.

👉 God opened the way for man.

The sacrifice of Jesus accomplished what animal sacrifices never could. The old system pointed forward. Jesus fulfilled it.

🔓 Now, through Christ, access is open.

- This means you do not need a human Jewish Levi priest to bring you to God.
- You do not need religious rituals to earn acceptance.
- You do not need to clean yourself up before coming to Him.

👉 Jesus has made the way.

Brothers and Sisters, hear this clearly: because of the blood of Jesus, you can come to God. Amen....

👉 Christian, never lose the wonder of that. The holy God of the universe has opened the way through the torn body of His Son.

6. The Centurion Saw Something Different:

Mark continues: **Mark 15:39**(NIV)

“And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, ‘Surely this man was the Son of God!’”

This Roman centurion had likely seen many deaths. But he had never seen anyone die like this.

- He saw the darkness.
- He heard the cry.
- He witnessed the dignity, the strength, the splendor of Jesus even in suffering.

And he came to the right conclusion: this Man was no mere man. He was the Son of God!

👉 This hardened Roman soldier begins to see.

That Should give us all hope.

No one is beyond the reach of the Cross.

💡 The hardest heart can be broken open by the revelation of who Jesus is.

7. The Women Stayed Near the Cross:

Mark also mentions the women watching from a distance...

Mark 15:40(NIV)⁴⁰ Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. 👉 suh-LOH-mee

These women had faithfully followed Jesus and had cared for His needs.

When many others ran away in fear, these women stayed near the Cross.


Their example reminds us that real love remains close to Jesus, even in moments of suffering.

💡 True discipleship is not only praising Him in joyful times....it is also staying faithful when the road is painful, costly, and hard to understand.

👉 And Brothers and Sisters, that still speaks to us today. We are not called to admire Jesus from a safe distance, but to follow Him closely, even when the world rejects Him or mocks our faith.

8. What Does This Mean for Us?

So what does this mean to us personally?

- First, it means sin is more serious than we think. If our salvation required the Cross, then sin is no small matter.
- Second, it means God's love is greater than we can measure. He did not spare His own Son, but gave Him for us all.
- Third, it means the Bible is divinely woven together. Psalm 22 and Mark 15 fit together with breathtaking precision.
 The Old Testament was pointing to Jesus all along.
- Fourth, it means Jesus is the promised Messiah. The Cross was not a contradiction of His identity. It was the proof of it.
- Fifth, it means the way to God is open through Christ alone.
- And sixth, it means no sinner is beyond hope.

Invitation to Be Born Again:

- Maybe you have heard about Jesus for years, but you have never truly trusted Him.
- Maybe you know church language, but you do not know Christ personally.
- Maybe you have been trying to be good enough, religious enough, or strong enough.

👉 You cannot save yourself.

💡 That is why Jesus went to the Cross.

- He bore sin.
- He took judgment.
- He paid the debt.
- He opened the way.

The cry of Jesus from Psalm 22 points us to the suffering Messiah.

The torn veil tells us the way is open.

The centurion's confession tells us who He is.

The whole passage is calling you to respond.

🔑 To be “born again” means you turn from your sins and place your faith in Jesus Christ alone.

- You trust that He died for your sins and rose again.
- You receive Him as Savior and Lord.

If that is you, call on Him today.

You can pray something like this:

Let us Pray....

“Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and cannot save myself..... I believe You died on the Cross for my sins and rose again..... Forgive me..... Wash me..... Save me..... I turn from my sins and place my trust in You alone..... Come into my life and make me new..... I receive You as my Lord and Savior..... In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Acts 4:12(NIV) “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Listen...”If” you prayed that sincerely by faith, the Lord hears you. God loves you.

- Stand on His promises.
- Begin reading His Word Daily.
- Also Pray daily.
- Fellowship with believers.
- Follow Jesus.

If you got “born again” today.....

 Welcome to the family of GOD!!!

Let us Pray....

Closing Prayer:

Father God, thank You for the Cross. Thank You for Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who suffered in our place and fulfilled every word You had spoken beforehand. Thank You that Psalm 22 points so clearly to Him, and thank You that the veil has been torn and the way has been opened. Help us to live in humility, gratitude, worship, and boldness. Strengthen every believer here, and let the truth of the Cross burn freshly in our hearts. And for those who are coming to Christ today, seal Your Word deeply within them and lead them in new life. We ask it all in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.



Matthew 28:19-20