

Sermon Title: The Words of Christ on the Cross, Part IV 3.22.2026

Themes: Sin has repercussions. Live-streaming and sermon notes are at trinitycg.org.

Focus Question: Have you ever been forsaken?

Introduction: 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?” Let’s meditate on Jesus’ fourth word on the cross by looking at this perplexing phrase of the Messiah in light of the prophecy, pain, power, praise, and proclamation of it.

Sermon Points:

1. The prophecy of it. A thousand years before “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” was uttered by Jesus it was written by David in **Psalm 22:1**. Thus was the word spoken by David, a man after God’s own heart, also spoken by the Son of man, the very heart of God, on the cross.

2. The pain of it. On the cross, as in Gethsemane, the Word of God records the total surrender of Jesus to the will of God the Father. Not that it would be easy, indeed it was excruciating. **Matthew 26:36-39**. In order to fully understand “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” we first must come to grips with “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” They are two sides of the same coin of the total abandonment of the Son’s own will in the pursuit of the Father’ will. While Gethsemane defers to the will of God the cross declares it! Are you willing to surrender *your* plans to God’s purpose?

3. The power of it. We now know what those who mocked Him in that moment would soon discover...that the forsaking on the cross simply paved the way for the rising from the tomb! As with many of our struggles, the dark night gives way to a refreshing morning. Christ died on the cross for the sins of the world. What a burden He bore for us. In your despair, you may have cried out, “God, why have You forsaken me?” As a child of God, our Heavenly Father does not desert you even as He forsakes the sin you carry! If you had been in the crowd at the cross, would you have stood by Christ on that day? Yes? Great! Then let go of the sin you are sneaking today so you can stand up for Him always! If you are unwilling to let go of your sin, then my friend, why are *you* forsaking God? While the sins of man put the Son on the cross, the power of the Father raised Him from the tomb, seated Him on the throne, and placed Him in your heart! And, up from the grave He arose! What a glorious event in the unfolding redemption story! Good conquers evil. Righteousness conquers sin. Life conquers death. Forsaken? Not for long! **Psalm 22:27**.

4. The praise of it. Give praise where praise is due. It is due to the Messiah. Jesus is now interceding on your behalf at the right hand of God. He does not intercede as one who has never known suffering...no, he intercedes as one who knows the sorrow of betrayal, grief, loneliness, and pain. He knows what you are going through. **Romans 8:34**. Jesus is the Gospel...Jesus is the Good News!

5. The proclamation of it. Far from being frightened into oblivion by the forsaking on the cross, His true disciples were emboldened into proclamation by the resurrection! **Acts 4:10-12**. Does that sound like fearful followers? Those are courageous Christians! **Matthew 27:46**. He was forsaken so we could be forgiven. He was abandoned so we could be adopted. He died so that we can live. The cross was not the defeat of Christ. It was the rescue of sinners. He was forsaken for a moment so that we would not be forsaken for eternity. Because He lives, every soul that trusts Him will live. The cross is not just something to admire—it is something to answer. You must decide what you will do with the One who was crucified for you. When Jesus cried, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” He was standing in the place where we deserved to stand. He took our judgment so we could receive His mercy. He was forsaken so you wouldn’t be. **Hebrews 13:5** (See Joshua 1:5). The question is not whether Christ died on the cross for sinners. The question is, “Will *you* come to the cross and let His death be for you?”

Reflection: Lord, give me the courage to stand for Christ just as He stood in the gap for me.