

DSC Community Group
Sermon Summary, 12/11/2011

Title: "Has God Forsaken Me?"
Series: "The Cross, The Crook, The Crown"

Text: Psalm 22
Preacher: Ryan Kelly

Leading up to Christmas, we will be working through three well known Messianic psalms, Psalm 22, 23, and 24.

1. A Psalm of David

- a. **Lamenting to God (1-2, 6-9, 12-17):** David feels forsaken by God. It's not that God has forsaken him, but he feels that God has. As David wrote these words 1000 yrs before Christ, he wasn't consciously writing about someone else. But neither is it the case that David literally experienced all of what he wrote in Ps 22. Some of it is literal, but some of it is figurative. It's hyperbole.
- b. **Recounting God's Ways (3-5, 9-10, 24):** Notice the repeated word, "yet." He actively recounts what he knows to be true of God.
- c. **Asking God for Help (11, 19-21)**
- d. **Resolving Praise and Trust (22-23, 25-31)**

2. A Psalm of Jesus

Mentioned 24x times in the NT, Jesus likely preached from Psalm 22 on the Road to Emmaus (Lk. 24)

- a. **Mockery (6-8, 17-18):** Matt. 27:39, 42-43 - Mocked by crowds, religious leaders, soldiers, and a thief.
- a. **Torment (12-15)**
- b. **Crucifixion (16-18):** Jn. 19:28; Matt. 27:35; Jn. 19:30
- c. **Desertion (1):** Matt. 27:46; How was Jesus forsaken? 2 Cor. 5:21 says "he who knew no sin became sin for us." His forsakenness was a part of the payment he paid for our sin. That is what we deserved.
- e. **Resurrection (19-21)**

3. A Psalm for Us

"Jesus came to die in our place. He died so that we might live. He was beaten so that we might have peace. He was bloodied so that we might be healed. He was rejected so that we might be accepted. He was despised so that we might be loved. He was forsaken so that we might be received. He suffered so that we might be comforted. He took on judgment so that we declared righteous."

- a. **Salvation (24)**
- b. **Restoration (26-27):** For Israel (22), "the ends of the earth" (27), "afflicted" (26), "prosperous" (29)
- c. **Worship (28-29):** This is ultimately what Jesus came to die for.
- d. **Propagation (30-31)**

In Summary: "David felt forsaken by God amidst terrible suffering. He fought against his doubt and despair by recounting God's ways/faithfulness in the past. He also kept asking God for help. Eventually God answered. But in God's orchestration David also pointed ahead 1000 yrs to the coming of the one who would bring the true victory, the final hope, the sure help, the deepest deliverance. This Jesus, the true Son of David and Righteous King, took on suffering and death by bearing sin. His suffering wasn't symbolic or hyperbole; it was true and real. He didn't just feel forsaken by God, but he was forsaken by God because he was bearing sin. But God rescued him; on the third day he rose and now lives forever and ever. Therefore his "gospel" is trustworthy. He did what he came to do, and he did it to the full. He welcomes us to come to him, be saved, be reconciled, to join in worship, and to join him in his plan for spreading his glory in this world. So now when we feel forsaken, when we feel like he doesn't hear us, we can trust him. He answers prayer, even if in his timing. His timing is perfect. His plan is sure. And one day all suffering and doubt and despair will be wiped away completely, for those who are his. It's not done yet, so we still grope after him; we still fight away our doubt and despair. We do that by learning from David's model in Psalm 22 but also by seeing the fullest reality of Psalm 22 in the cross of Christ."

Sample Questions

- This Psalm is clearly Messianic, but it was also true to David's experience. What is the relationship between the original meaning for David and the New Testament's application of this Psalm to Christ?
- How does this Psalm not only describe the nature of Christ's death, but its meaning and goal?
- What takeaways are there from this Psalm for the suffering we experience in this life?