

Not Forsaken; Matthew 27:45-56

- I. Jesus
 - A. Jesus makes 7 statements on the cross
 - B. Matthew only records one of them
 - C. It is, perhaps, the 4th in chronological order
 - D. I think this is one of the most misunderstood statements that Jesus ever makes
- II. Forsaken
 - A. God had a plan from the very beginning
 - B. Jesus knew this plan (perhaps he even thought it up and brought it to fruition)
 1. Acts 2:23 (ESV); this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.
 2. Some people might tell you that the age of the church was plan B
 - a) That since the Israelites rejected the Christ, God had to come up with a different plan and that was the Church
 - b) Nothing can be further from the truth
 - c) This plan was put together before the foundations of the world were set
 - d) The parable of the sower, the weeds, the mustard seed and the leaven (in Matthew 13) are all about the Kingdom of heaven (the age of the church)
 - e) Matthew 13:34–35 (ESV); ³⁴ All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. ³⁵ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.”
 - C. The plan from the very beginning was that God would provide a sacrifice that would satisfy His wrath — and the only sacrifice that was acceptable was His sinless Son
 - D. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV); For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
 - E. John 10:17–18 (ESV); ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”
 - F. If this was the plan from the beginning, how did God ever forsake His Son, Jesus the Christ?
- III. Not Forsaken
 - A. I understand that God cannot accept sin — this is why Jesus sacrificed Himself
 - B. I understand that Jesus became sin for us
 - C. Acts 7:56 (ESV); And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”
 - D. This is how I picture Jesus crucifixion
 1. The darkness over all the land may very well symbolize the evil that was accomplished by the Israelites at the hand of Rome
 2. The veil of the Temple torn in two symbolizes the end of the Mosaic law and the beginning of the Perfect Law of Liberty
 3. The plan from the foundations of the world is being completed right there
 4. I picture God giving Jesus a standing ovation, not forsaking Him
 5. I do think something fundamental had to change in their relationship
 6. Maybe that is why He was in the grave for three days
 7. “Yet shortly before he dies, he apparently senses an abrupt loss of the communion with the Father which had proved so intimate and significant throughout his life. Not

surprisingly, then, Christian theology developed the belief that at this moment Christ bore the sins of all humanity, spiritually separating him from his Heavenly Father”¹

- E. Jesus’ statement is a quote from Psalm 22
 - 1. Psalm 22 is a picture of Jesus crucifixion
 - 2. Verse 1 is Jesus’ cry on the cross
 - 3. Verses 7-8, ‘All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; “He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”’ — the words of His enemies as they mock Him (Matthew 27:43)
 - 4. Verse 15, Psalm 22:15, “my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.” foreshadows Jesus’ words, “I thirst” (John 19:28)
 - 5. Verse 16, “For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—“ foretells the piercing of Jesus hands and feet (John 20:25)
 - 6. Verse 18, they cast lots for Jesus’ clothing (Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:24)
 - 7. Jesus’ quote from Psalm 22 is designed to get them thinking about the prophecies there and how they are witnessing their fulfillment
 - F. Even at Jesus’ death He is still trying to show them that He is the Messiah
 - 1. Knowing that they are rejecting Him (and thereby rejecting God), Jesus is showing them that He is the fulfillment of prophecy (and the Law)
 - 2. Even at His death Jesus’ desire is that all people come to the knowledge of repentance (that is to repent of their unbelief)
 - 3. As Jesus is arrested, mocked, beaten, scourged, and crucified I see God standing by Him saying, “good job, Son”
 - G. Because Jesus is not forsaken, neither are we!
- IV. The Plan
- A. The plan from the very beginning was to provide an acceptable sacrifice so that we might have eternal life
 - 1. From the prophecy in the Garden that Jesus will crush Satan’s head
 - 2. Genesis 12:3 (ESV); I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
 - 3. From Psalm 22 that depicts Jesus’ crucifixion
 - B. We have an offer of Salvation!

¹ Craig Blomberg, Matthew, vol. 22, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 419.