

Hard Sayings Of Jesus

Lesson 14

I. This Week's Hard Saying

Matt 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me ? KJV

II. Why This Is Hard

- a. To the Christian reader this is hard because all of the many promises of God's deliverance are made **void** when it comes to the one truly innocent sufferer of human history.

III. What This Cry Was Not

- a. Some suppose "that the divinity had now **departed** from Christ, and that his human nature was left unsupported to bear the punishment due to men for their sins."
- b. This cannot be the case, as it would deprive his sacrifice of its **infinite merit**, and consequently leave the sin of the world without atonement.
- c. Some understand the meaning to be "what sort of persons hast thou left me"? Thus understood His words referred to his **crucifiers**, but this is doubtful exegesis.
- d. Still others believe that His grievous bodily sufferings might have caused Him to address God as if he was forsaken, or given up to extreme anguish. Such an understanding focuses on the physical aspects of the crucifixion and diminishes Christ's spiritual experience of it.

IV. Seeing Through The Eyes of Christ: Relationship

- a. The relationship that exists between the Father and the Son is an essential **oneness**. *John 10:30 I and my Father are one . John 14:9 e that hath seen me hath seen the Father;KJV*
- b. The Son rejoiced always before him, **delighted** to do his will and participated in the very act of creation with Him. *Prov 8:30 Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; KJV Ps 40:7-8 7 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, 8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.KJV John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. KJV*
- c. Although Scripture does not expressly state so, it is theorized by theologians that the soul of Jesus was endowed with the **beatific vision** from the beginning of its existence.
- d. This means that He knew God immediately in His essence, or, in other words, beheld Him face to face and He knows Him as **He truly is**. *Matt 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father : and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father ; neither knoweth any man the Father , save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. KJV*
- e. Thus, the God/man nature of Christ (**Hypostatic Union**) assumes a unity of Divine persons. For this reason it is believed that the human soul of Christ must have seen God face to face from the very first moment of its creation.
- f. Therefore, the Lord had never in all of eternity past known a time of **separation** from the Father. When He was born in that manger He was cast upon the breast of the Father for His providential care and sustenance. *Ps 22:9-10 9 But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts.10 I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly. KJV*
- g. All the days of his earthly existence were under the watchful **eye** of His heavenly Father. *Hos 11:1 When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt. KJV Ps 41:12 And as for me, thou upholdest me in mine integrity, and settest me before thy face for ever. KJV*
- h. The Father **delighted** in the Son, as Mediator between Him and man, and was well-pleased with His life and ministry. *Matt 3:17 This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. KJV*
- i. **Whatever** Jesus spoke or whatever He did it was only what the Father would have said or done. *John 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. KJV John 5:36 For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me. NIV*
- j. Jesus, therefore comprehended the significance of separation from the Father like no other human ever could. This is what has been referred to as the **utter pain of belief** *Luke 22:42-44 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. 43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. 44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

V. Seeing Through The Eyes of Christ: Wrath

- a. On the cross Christ understood that His mission was to bear the punishment of the righteous **indignation** of God against all sin. *Isa 53:5-6 Isa 53:5-6 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. KJV*
- b. In His crucifixion Christ was able to comprehend the horrible wrath of God against the soul of the sinner, a judgment so horrible, so terrifying that it goes beyond what we can even imagine, in some respect He was suffering the **second death**. *Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory*

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and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. *KJV 2 Tim 1:10* But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: *KJV*

- c. The forsakenness experienced by Christ is for us a glimpse of the agony of **God abandonment**, that which the wicked will experience when mercy no longer pleads with the guilty race and justice is meted out in the lake of fire. *Rev 20:13-15* and they were judged every man according to their works. *14* And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. *15* And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. *KJV*

VI. Seeing Through The Eyes of Christ: The Curse

- a. God is holy and anyone or anything which would, if spared, corrupt or contaminate the religious life of God's people was to be **utterly destroyed** as the surest way of avoiding such contamination. Hence the death penalty for certain sins.
- b. Failure to keep each and every command of God places the individual in a category of condemnation (guilty before God) and is called **a curse**. *Deut 11:26-28* Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse ; *27* A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: *28* And a curse , if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God...*KJV James 2:10* *10* For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point , he is guilty of all. *KJV*
- c. The one cursed is **abandoned by God**, forsaken, separated and shut off, there is no acquittal through appeal to a law that commands and never forgives-prohibits and never relents. Hence, the violator's doom has been pronounced and escape is impossible. *Deut 21:22-23* And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree : *23* His body shall not remain all night upon the tree , but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;)
- d. Since in Adam, all mankind is guilty before God of violating the law we are all condemned and all of us are **judicially** under the curse of God. *Rom 5:12* Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned : *KJV Rom 3:19* Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. *KJV*
- e. When the Jews cried out, "Crucify Him," crucifixion in Christ's day was synonymous with hanging on a tree, the equivalent of the **second death**, forever separated from the presence of the Father.
- f. While it was the Jews who demanded Jesus' crucifixion to make Him **accursed**, it was the Father who had foreordained that Jesus would drink of that cup of separation. *Mark 15:13* And they cried out again, Crucify him. *KJV Rom 8:32* He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, *KJV*
- g. It was Christ, who as our **substitute**, took God's curse for us on the cross. When He experienced the forsakenness of the Father in His humanity, for the first time in all eternity past He was separated from the Father. *Gal 3:13* Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: *KJV*

VII. Putting it all Together

- a. On the cross He **became** the one who had blasphemed God, the one who had stolen, the one who had committed adultery, the one who had murdered, the one who had coveted. Judicially, He became you and I: **Cursed of God**. *Rom 6:6-8* Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. *7* For he that is dead is freed from sin. *8* Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: *KJV 2 Cor 5:21* For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin ; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. *KJV*
- b. Because of His beatific vision, He knew the Father as He is, face to face, Jesus comprehended the **significance** of being cut off from Him as no one else in human history ever could.
- c. Having been cut off from the Father, in His human nature, it could be said that on the cross He experienced the **Eternal pains** of hell, (the second death) forsaken by Father.
- d. His cry on the cross was yet another means by which believers through the ages have been able to discover for themselves how the Scriptures **testify** of Jesus as the Messiah. *John 5:39* Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me . *KJV; Ps 22*

VIII. Application: A Contemplation

- a. We are comforted in knowing that by faith Christ was forsaken of God, that we would never have to fear being forsaken. Because of His finished work, we know God will never leave nor forsake us. *Hebrews 13:5* "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."
- b. He was forsaken for our sins, for our iniquities, for our transgressions. And because we know the answer to His plaintive question "why," we have full assurance of our completed redemption.
- c. Joyfully, our hearts are comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ. *Colossians 2:2*

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