

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: December 9, 2020
Fulfilled – Why have you forsaken me?
Matthew 27:46 and Psalm 22

1. Read Matthew 27:46 (See also Mark 15:34). What is happening in the text surrounding this verse?
 - a. Jesus is being crucified.
 - b. The guards, the chief priests, teachers of the law, elders, those who passed by, and even the criminals to his left and right were mocking him.
 - c. The people who mocked him thought that, if he was the Son of God and really trusted in God, God would save him

2. What did Jesus say (at about 3 in the afternoon) in his final moments? _____

3. Do you think that God had really forsaken him?
 - a. Well...He said it, so that must be what was happening.
 - b. In our theological understanding, we believe that God cannot look on sin and Jesus in that moment took on the sin of the world so yes, God had forsaken him.
 - c. Well, God did not save him from physical death in this moment...he suffered and died. If you suffered and died for crimes you did not commit, would you feel forsaken?
 - d. But...ultimately, Jesus was raised from the dead and He ascended to sit at the right hand of the Father, so...that doesn't sound forsaken.

4. Read Psalm 22. Let's ask the same question that the Ethiopian eunuch asked of Philip about Isaiah. Who is the writer talking about, himself or someone else?
 - a. This feels like a trick question.
 - b. Well, this definitely could have been written by David about his own circumstances and it sounds very personal! (see 1 Samuel 19-22 or 2 Samuel 11:1-12:19 or 2 Samuel 15:1-16:14)
 - c. You have to believe that in the moment that Jesus cried out, he identified with the Psalmist and he was applying this very text to his own situation.
 - d. Well, there are days...don't let me be too melodramatic, but there are days that I'm pretty sure this was written with me in mind!

5. So, if we apply this Psalm to Jesus (as he seemed to do, himself), what does this tell us about the Messiah, our Savior?
 - a. I don't want a God forsaken savior! I want a blessed Savior who blesses me and let's me get swept up in all his blessings!
 - b. Jesus was willing to be forsaken by God in order to take our sin upon himself.
 - c. Jesus knows what it feels like to suffer and even feel like God has abandoned you.
 - d. Well, if we serve a God who doesn't always protect His people from all suffering, even David the man after His own heart and His son Jesus, then we might need to rethink our expectations of God.

6. Review again Psalm 22:3-5, 9-11, 19-21, etc. What should this tell us about suffering and feel forsaken by God?
 - a. That sounds like a good time to cry out to God for help...wait, why haven't I spent much time with God lately? Maybe the problem is that I've put my trust other places and it's time to lean on Him again.
 - b. Well, I think that it is important to remember that the moment of trouble when we feel alone is not the end of the story. God comes through!
 - c. Maybe it is ok that we don't serve a God who rescues us from all trouble, but we do serve a God who is with us in times of trouble and works them for our good in the long-term and ultimately has victory in our lives at the end of the story.