

## The Dynamics of the Cross

Cornerstone Community Church – Pastor Jerry Ernst - March 30, 2025

**Scripture: Matthew 27:34-51; Psalm 22:1-2, 7-8, 14-18**

Today, we will look at four dynamics of “Good Friday” and the themes around the Cross of Jesus Christ. Psalm 22 gives a prophecy about how the Messiah would come with details surrounding His death so we could recognize Jesus as God’s Son (John 3:16). The darkness was both physical and spiritual that Friday Jesus died on the cross.

### The Dynamics of the Cross (Matthew 27:34-51)

#### **1) THE SHAME OF THE CROSS – THE PARTED GARMENTS (Vv. 34-36)**

*“(34) There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. (35) When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. (36) And sitting down, they kept watch over him there.”*

- The soldiers added insult to injury **“(35) ...they divided up his clothes (garments) by casting lots.”**

**DIVIDE:** (Gk: diamerizo): **“Divide up, completely parted.”**

- **Fulfilled Psalm 22:14-18** *“(14) I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint... (15) My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. (16) Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. ... (17) ...people stare and gloat over me. (18) They **divide** my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.”*

#### **2) THE SLANDER OF THE CROSS – THE PARTED RESPECT (Vv. 37-44)**

**The sign:** *“(37) Above his head they placed the written charge against him: ‘THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.’”*

**The words of blasphemy** *“(39) Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads (40) and saying, ‘You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!’”*

**The religious leaders mocking Jesus:** *“(41) In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ‘(42) He saved others,’ they said, ‘but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. (43) He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now...’ (44) In the same way the robbers...also heaped insults on him.”*

- **Fulfilled Psalm 22:7-8** – *“(7) All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: ‘He trusts in the Lord; let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.’”*

#### **3) THE SORROW OF THE CROSS – THE PARTED FELLOWSHIP (Vv. 45-49)**

*“(45) From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. (46) About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’ – which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’”*

**The Physical Sign:** *“(45) ...sixth hour until the ninth hour **darkness came...**”*

- **Good Friday** – Jesus’ death happened from 12:00 noon – 3:00 P.M.

**The Spiritual Abandonment:** *“(46) About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’ – which means, ‘**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**’”*

- This was the *only* time Jesus was “forsaken” by God His Father.

**FORSAKE:** (Gk: *enkataleipo*): **“to forsake, abandon, leave in straits, leave helpless.”**

- **Fulfilled Psalm 22:1-2** – “(1) My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?... (2) O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night...”

#### **4) THE SUCCESS OF THE CROSS – THE PARTED VEIL (Vv. 50-51)**

*“(50) And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. (51) At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.”*

**The Temple had three main parts:** The Courts, the Holy Place, and the Most Holy Place.

**The Holy Place** – only priests could enter this sacred area (Hebrews 9:2).

**The Most Holy Place** – only the high priest could enter - once per year - to atone for the people’s sin (Leviticus 16; Hebrews 9:7).

**The Temple curtain torn from top to bottom** – A curtain separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. Only the High Priest was allowed to go behind this curtain to plead with God for the people’s sin (Hebrews 9:7, 12).

**The curtain was torn by God the Father (top to bottom) at the very moment Jesus died.**

\*Hebrews 9:24, 28; 10:19-22

- **Fulfilled Psalm 31:5** – “(5) Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O Lord, the God of Truth.”

**Hebrews 9:1-14; 10:19-22**