

Famous Last Words

Week 3: My God, My God...

April 5, 2009

Getting Started

Have you ever sat with someone who was dying? What was it like?

What is the saddest funeral you have ever experienced? How did you feel?

Digging Deeper – Read Matthew 27:27-55

Describe the responses of the various individuals/groups who witnessed the crucifixion. Why do you think they responded the way they did?

The soldiers (27:27-36)

The robbers who were crucified with him (27:38, 44)

Those who passed by (27:39)

The chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders (27:41-43)

The centurion (27:54)

The women who knew Jesus (27:55-56)

Why did God have to forsake (or abandon) Jesus on the cross?
(see 2 Corinthians 5:21 & 1 Peter 2:24)

Scripture tells us that when Jesus gave up his spirit, the “curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.”

What was the purpose of the curtain in the temple?
(see Exodus 26:31-35 & Hebrews 9:1-7)

Why was it significant that the curtain was torn in two?
(see Hebrews 10:19-22a)

Making It Personal

Have there ever been times in your life when you responded to Christ like...

the soldiers did (i.e. made fun of him)?

the people who passed by did (i.e. hurled insults at him)?

the chief priests & teachers of the law did (i.e. didn't believe in him)?

Which do you think was harder for Jesus – the physical pain or the spiritual abandonment of his Father? Why?

Has there ever been a time when you felt God abandoned you? When God failed you in some way? How did you respond? How should you respond?

How can the promise found in Hebrews 13:5 help you trust God more?

When did the crucifixion begin to make a difference in your own life?

Through Jesus' death on the cross, we are now able to "draw near to God" (Hebrews 10:22). Jesus broke through the barrier that separated man from God.

How have you tried to guard against God breaking through in your life?

Is there anything in your life that is keeping you from drawing near to God?

How should the death of Christ on the cross affect our everyday lives?

Prayer

Spend time thanking God for Jesus' willing sacrifice on the cross. Ask Him to help you grow in your appreciation & understanding of what Jesus did on the cross.