

## CROSSWORDS | Why Have You Forsaken Me | Week 4 | March 21

Matthew 27:46-50; Romans 8:22; Galatians 3:13; John 1:1-2; John 16:33; Matthew 28:20

*These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.*

### Opener:

- Share or journal about a time you've felt forsaken? What happened?
- As we navigate through the current reality of COVID-19 what are you feeling? What are you telling yourself? What are you relying on?

**Under the Radar:** Pastor Dan spoke of “hidden” pain that exists all around us of which we are probably unaware. Perhaps it is even your own pain, unspoken and lurking below the surface. Jesus lived it. He spoke it. Read Matthew 27:45-46.

- Has the current reality we are facing brought to the surface any “hidden” pain you might have tried to hide? How does that effect you do or don't feel forsaken?
- Having read the anguish Jesus expressed in Matthew 27 what especially intrigued, provoked, disturbed, challenged, encouraged, or surprised you?

**Jesus Speaks:** We've seen throughout the narrative that Jesus often does not speak. Caiaphas, Herod, Pilate, the soldiers - Jesus met each one with silence not defense.

- Why do you think Jesus spoke here to the Father and not to the others?
- What is the opposite of being “forsaken”?

**All of Creation:** Read Romans 8:22. Surely Jesus on the cross was an event in history that creation groaned over. We're told in Matthew 27:45 that “darkness came over the land.”

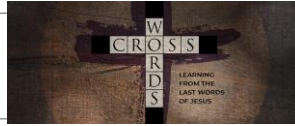
- We have the benefit of the end of the story, what would the people there at the time be thinking? What would you have been thinking if you were there and not knowing what we know this side of the cross?
- What impact does this scene have on you?

**The Picture of Sin?:** Pastor Dan said, “Pride, lust, violence, greed, envy, gluttony, sloth, deceit—all the most deadly viruses—always find a host.” We are revolted by the anguish and betrayal pictured here.

- Is this how our Triune God sees sin?
- What stirs in you when you reflect on this reality?

**Self-Sacrificial Love:** Pastor Dan reminded us, “In that single instant, the Scriptures say, Jesus Christ ‘became a curse for us’ (Gal 3:13). He absorbed the full consequences of our disease. He took into his body the full infection of sin and death.” Here we see a deeper reason for anguish. This is the incredible self-sacrificial love of God that goes beyond what we can even imagine.

- We are in the season of Lent. A season where we journey towards the cross. When was the last time you expressed your love and gratefulness to Jesus for his self-sacrificial love for us? Take a moment to offer prayers of thanks or journal a thank you to Jesus.



**Where is God Now?:** Pastor Dan challenged us to read Psalm 22. It begins with our verse today on being forsaken and ends in worship and honor to God. He said “In the midst of our dark agonies ..when normal rhythms and familiar economy of our lives collapse ..we must not forget that the sun (SON) still exists.”

- In these disorienting times, what is your hope? What is your fear?
- Share your fears, don't be the carrier of unspoken angst.
- Share your hopes with each other as an encouragement and reminder that you remember the Son is still there.

**Practice of the week:**

This past week we posted a number of resources ([ChristChurch.us/covid19](https://ChristChurch.us/covid19)) for you to explore that will help you to create space for Jesus and community. Our encouragement to you is that through them you will remember the hope and security we have as followers of Jesus. Take some time this week and find the one that would be the most helpful for you right now.

**We'd love to hear from you!**

If you have thoughts, questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you or your small group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these study guides in your lives.

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