

Celebrate PALM SUNDAY

“WHEN YOU FEEL ABANDONED BY GOD”

MATTHEW 27:45-50

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS | APRIL 10

Introduction: This time of the year we tend to focus on the majesty of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday or the victory of His resurrection on Easter Sunday. However, few sermons focus on the profound sense of abandonment by His heavenly Father that Jesus felt on Good Friday. That is our focus today as we look at Jesus’ final moments on the cross.

2 Corinthians 5:21 “He [God] made Him [Jesus Christ] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Matthew 27:45-50 ⁴⁵ “Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?’ that is, ‘MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?’ ⁴⁷ And some of those who were standing there, when they heard it, began saying, ‘This man is calling for Elijah.’ ⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran, and taking a sponge, he filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink. ⁴⁹ But the rest of them said, ‘Let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him.’ ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.”

I. **Life Is Unfair** (Job 1:1)

Job 1:1 “There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.”

II. **God Does Not Always Deliver Us From Our Problems** (Matthew 27:41-43)

Matthew 27:41-43 ⁴¹ “In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking Him saying, ⁴² ‘He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him. ⁴³ HE TRUSTS IN GOD; LET GOD RESCUE HIM now, IF HE DELIGHTS IN HIM; for He said, “I am the Son of God.””

Psalms 22:1-2 ¹ “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning. ² O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer; and by night, but I have no rest.”

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III. God Rarely Explains The Reason For Our Suffering (Romans 8:28-29)

Matthew 16:21 “From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.”

A. God’s Purpose for Our Lives Is Good

Romans 8:28 “God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him to those who are called according to His purpose.”

Romans 8:29 “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.”

B. God’s Purpose for Our Lives Requires Discomfort

C. God’s Purpose for Our Lives Will Be Ultimately Realized

1 Peter 4:12-13 ¹² “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.”

IV. For Christians, All Disappointment Is Temporary (Matthew 27:50)

Matthew 27:50 “And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.”