

Mark 15:33-41 **THE PRICE OF MY SALVATION**

³³ *At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.* ³⁴ *And at 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?"* ³⁵ *When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."* ³⁶ *One man ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.* ³⁷ *With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.* ³⁸ *The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.* ³⁹ *And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"* ⁴⁰ *Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.* ⁴¹ *In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.*

The cup that Jesus had not passed off in the garden had now been drunk to the dregs. The opening words of Psalm 22 are a fitting revelation of the utter spiritual agony endured by Jesus on the cross as he took on the sin of man and offered himself in fulfillment of the curse. There is a proportionality between the level of love experienced in a relationship and the pain and loneliness experienced when that relationship is interrupted or lost. We cannot even imagine what pain Jesus felt when his relationship of perfect love with the father was interrupted. What we can learn is that Jesus' death on the cross for us had unfathomable consequences for Jesus. In an economy of words, Mark gives us a hint of the cost.

Again we are presented with our choices through the populations of people who witnessed Jesus' death. The religious authorities continue to mock Jesus. A gentile soldier and the women, neither being a respected class, stood by Jesus. According to Mark, the Disciples were nowhere to be found. Present in disbelief; present in belief; absent; where are you with respect to Jesus? As you live your daily life are you cognizant of Jesus' great sacrifice for you? If you were, what difference would it make?

Lord Jesus, you voluntarily suffered separation from the Father so that I might not have to experience eternal separation from God. As I look upon your suffering on the cross help me to understand just how horrible the fate from which you delivered me. May that understanding lead to a life of greater gratitude and obedience. Amen.