

The Fourth Cry from the Cross

Jesus Christ came to set us prisoners free

What has bound us and made us prisoners to our sin, to the world, and to Satan --is so powerful -- and so beyond our ability or the ability of anyone -- even an Arch Angel -- to deal with -- the Lord Jesus had to **substitute Himself in our place and take our sin and its judgment**. The results of our condemnation, sin, judgment, bondage, and its pain -- is what we hear in this fourth cry from the Lord Jesus: ***My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*** (Matt 27:46)

I. The Cry Of the Lord Jesus Is An Explanation

In the agony of this unanswered question ***Why have You forsaken Me?*** we have the **revelation** of what it took for the Lord Jesus to make it possible to set us as prisoners free.

What do we hear and see in this Cry of Dereliction? We see and hear the suffering of our Substitute.

In those six hours on the cross He Who is love -- bore all the judgment of our selfishness, manipulation, and self-centeredness.

In those hours, He Who is holiness -- bore the judgment of our unholy thoughts, emotions, desires and events.

In those hours, on the cross, He Who is truth -- bore the judgment of our lies, cheating, exaggerations, and practice of error.

Do we really wish to understand the profound significance of our sin? -- then we need only to meditate on this fourth cry from our Savior -- as He bears that sin in His own nature and body. He cried out, ***My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?***

II. The Cry of the Lord Jesus is a Warning

What we see and hear in this mournful, confused and unanswered cry of the Lord Jesus is a picture of the eternal state of those who refuse to acknowledge that they are prisoners -- and accept His provision of salvation.

What we see and hear is a description and picture of Hell itself. Consider for a moment what happened to the Holy Son of God on that Cross. He bore what we deserve. He paid our price. He suffered our condemnation, judgment, and died our physical and spiritual death. In those six hours on the cross all the agony of our eternal Hell was compressed and placed upon our Savior. The only reason He could live through such a time of suffering is that the Blessed Holy Spirit poured strength into Him.

This fourth cry is a warning to all who have **not confessed** that they are prisoners to sin. There may be a number here in this auditorium who have never made that confession -- with repentance and faith. The confession I am talking about grows out of a personal awareness that one is a sinner, and acknowledges that before God with personal repentance and an appeal to Jesus Christ for mercy and salvation.

I must ask all of you who have been raised in a Christian home and Church to think carefully about this. The Bible gives us a description of a man who was religious but who did not know he was still a prisoner to sin, the world, and to Satan.

He was a man honored in his community. In fact he was a religious leader and a member of the Supreme Court of his day. You know who I am speaking of -- his name was Nicodemus. His story is told in John, chapter 3. Nicodemus was a covenant child and a leader in His Synagogue. Do you remember what the Lord Jesus said to him? He told Nicodemus that he had to be born again in order to go to Heaven.

Some of you are saying to yourself -- God won't send me to Hell -- I've have spent all my life as a honest and righteous person -- I'm a covenant child and a Church member in good standing. You are right -- God won't send you to Hell -- but you will if you do not acknowledge in spiritual honesty that you are a sinner and a prisoner to sin. It's your choice. All of us in this room will live forever and spend eternity either in Heaven or Hell. Hell is what we see and hear in this fourth cry. It is a place of darkness, of pain, of separation from God, of judgment, and of cries that go unanswered.

III. The Cry of the Lord Jesus is an Testimony of Divine Provision

The Lord Jesus died under your judgment and mine so that we can be forgiven. Every provision has been made. The message of John the Baptist is very appropriate this afternoon. He said, ***Behold, the Lamb of God, Who taketh away the sin of the world.***

That is Who we see this afternoon on that cross. He is God's sacrificial Lamb. In His suffering He is taking away your sin and mine. Because He died in our place, and was resurrected from the grave -- He can give forgiveness and salvation to all who call upon Him in repentance and faith.

The cry of our Savior is an **Explanation -- a Warning -- and a Clear-cut Testimony of Divine Provision.**