

March 12, 2023

Pastor Joe Hess

Study Guide

Famous Last Words

The Fourth Word



Mark 15:33-34

³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "**Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?**" (which means "**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**")

Ice Breaker Questions:

- Were you afraid of the dark as a kid? Who or what comforted you in your fear?
- What other things were you afraid of as a kid and what helped you?

Thoughts & Questions to Fuss With:

1. As an adult, have you ever cried out in pain?
Have you ever cried out to get someone's attention?
Have you ever cried out in prayer?
2. How hard is it for us to see our heroes (movie stars, sports figures, parents, older brother or sister) struggle?
How hard it is for us to see Jesus struggle?
3. If the fourth word of Jesus from the cross is a prayer – contrast this prayer with the Lord's Prayer? "Our Father, who art in heaven..."
4. Jesus is quoting from Psalm 22 "**My God, my God why have you forsaken me.**" How does the psalmist move from Psalm 22 to the first verses of Psalm 23: "**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want...**"?
How do we move from Psalm 22 to Psalm 23?
5. We can cry out in physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual pain.
Which is the hardest pain for you to deal with?
When Jesus cried out – where was his greatest pain coming from?
6. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus predicts his death and how he'll die three times. Read Mark 8:31-33.
In this first prediction of Jesus' death, why do you think Jesus got so upset with Peter?
7. Jesus predicts his death a second time (Mark 9:30-36).
Why did the disciples struggle with this so?
Why were they afraid to ask questions?
Why would the group argue about who was greatest?
When do we argue about our position?
8. Jesus predicts his death a third and final time (Mark 10:32-34). This time, even more than the last... cricket... cricket... cricket. There's no response at all – in fact James and John ask Jesus for the privileged seat. Read Mark 10:35-45.
If the disciples were taking notes from Jesus after this story – what's underlined in their notes?

9. Joe compares being forsaken with being abandoned.
Have you ever felt abandoned in your family?
In your community?
In your work?
In your church?
10. Joe shares that God and sin cannot coexist.
How has that been true in people you've known?
How has that been true in your own life?
11. I often write these questions on Saturday morning when the AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) group meets in a room below my office. I often hear them cheering and applauding each other.
Why do you think they cheer and applaud?
12. In this scene at the cross – is God the Father cheering and applauding from heaven?
Or is Satan cheering from hell?
13. In the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 10:32-36), Jesus prays to his Father, to his Dad – **“...Father, Abba - everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”** This is Jesus' full humanity showing.
Why does Jesus pray this prayer?
Does Jesus know the answer to this prayer before he prays it?
Could God the Father have forgiven us another way?
14. Have you ever prayed a similar prayer, **“My God, my God, why...?”**
15. How has God spoken to you in your times of forsakenness?
16. How are we called to speak to people in their times of forsakenness?
17. How honest and vulnerable and raw are you in your prayers?
18. **“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, sharing in the fellowship of his suffering, becoming like him in his death.”** (Phil 3:10). In light of this Philippians text, fuss with this statement Joe made: “To know Jesus – you have to know Jesus from the cross.”
19. If the opposite of forsaken is connected – how connected are you to God?
If someone asked you if you were a believer, what would you say?
Would they know you were a believer if they just watched you?
Listened to you?
20. How connected are you to your family and friends?
How can you take a step towards a friend or family member this week?
How can you take steps towards God this week?