

Week of August 4 - My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Small Group Lesson 12

Connect

What may be the significance of the many women who followed and looked after Jesus, and then in their witnessing of His crucifixion and resurrection? How have women helped the church to thrive until this very day? (Matthew 27:55-56)

Verses - Matthew 27:45-56 (CSB)

45 From noon until three in the afternoon, darkness came over the whole land. 46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Elí, Elí, lemá sabachtháni?” That is,“My God, my God, why have you abandoned me ?”

47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling for Elijah.”

48 Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and offered him a drink. 49 But the rest said, “Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

50 But Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and gave up his spirit. 51 Suddenly, the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom, the earth quaked, and the rocks were split. 52 The tombs were also opened and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. 53 And they came out of the tombs after his resurrection, entered the holy city, and appeared to many.

54 When the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was the Son of God! ”

55 Many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and looked after him were there, watching from a distance. 56 Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.

Study

1. Consider the soldiers keeping watch over Jesus on the cross. (v.54) What exactly did they see? Why do you think they were terrified by these things? What did they mean when they said, "***Truly*** this man was the Son of God!"

2. It was only in his final words spoken from the cross that Jesus addressed God as "***my God.***" (v.46) Before that he had only ever addressed God as "***Father.***" What changed? Why is this important?

3. Furthermore, how should we understand Jesus' final words from the cross, "...My God, my God, ***why have you abandoned me?***" (v.46) In what sense had God abandoned Jesus? Did Jesus really not understand why?

4. How does it help us to understand and explain his words spoken from the cross (v.46) when we realize that ***Jesus was quoting from Psalm 22***?

5. **SHARING -** When you think about all that Jesus experienced on earth, between the time of his birth until his resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father, ***how does this make you feel***?

Prayer

Please pray for one another as the Spirit guides you and, in addition, ask God…

- …to help us understand and apply today's Bible reading correctly,
- …to make us thankful for all of the blessings he has bestowed on us,
- …most especially our salvation through the atoning sacrifice of Christ, and
- …for helping us to grow spiritually as we constantly seek to imitate Christ.