

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

A REPROACH OF MEN

PSALMS 22

Text: Psalms 22:6

Psalm 22:6

⁶ *But I am a worm, and no man; **a reproach of men,**
and despised of the people.*

Introduction:

Often Psalms 22 is referred to as the “Psalm of the Cross.” This is because it gives a detailed description of Calvary.

Christ is speaking in this Psalm.

Note the expression in verse six.

Psalm 22:6

⁶ *But I am a worm, and no man; **a reproach of men,**
and despised of the people.*

The calls Himself, “a reproach of men.”

To be a reproach means to be despised or disgraced.

While the Lord was hanging on the cross the people said that He wasn't who He claims to be and the mocked and ridiculed the Son of God.

The Lord could have saved Himself, but He submitted to the cross to pay our sin debt.

He bore reproach for us.

He was falsely accused for us.

What are willing to bear for Him?

As we consider this passage I want us to work our way backwards from verse six to verse one.

Note:

1. THE SAVAGE'S CONCLUSION (VS. 3-6)

Psalm 22:3-6

³ But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. ⁴ Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. ⁵ They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. ⁶ But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.

As we stated earlier as Christ hung on the cross the people mocked and jeered.

Note the people at the cross.

Luke 23:35

³⁵ *And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.*

Matthew 27:36

³⁶ *And sitting down they watched him there;*

Every class of person was there, and He died for every class of person.

A. Political Leaders

Matthew 27:29-35

²⁹ *And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!* ³⁰ *And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.*

³¹ *And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.* ³² *And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.* ³³ *And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,* ³⁴ *They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.* ³⁵ *And they crucified him, and parted*

his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

- Something had gone wrong in their lives.

B. Religious Crowd (Matthew 27:41-42)

Matthew 27:41-42

⁴¹ Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, ⁴² He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

All of these people had formed an opinion regarding the Lord.

They concluded that the Lord wasn't Who He claimed to be and wasn't able to do what He said that He could do.

We note "The Savage's Conclusion" but also:

2. THE SAVIOUR'S CRY (VS. 1-2)

Psalm 22:1-2

¹ My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of

*my roaring?*² *O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.*

We learn 4 things from these words of the Lord on the cross.

Note we learn:

A. How Terrible Sin Is

- My little lie
- My moment of pride
- My selfishness
- My sin killed the perfect Son of God

That's how bad sin is.

We not only see "How Terrible Sin Is" but also we learn:

B. How Amazing God's Love Is

A young boy came up to his mother one evening and handed her a piece of paper.

On that paper he had written the following list:

For cutting the grass: \$5.00

For cleaning my room: \$1.00

For going to store for you: \$1.00

For baby-sitting my little brother while you went shopping: \$1.00

For taking out the rubbish: \$1.00

For getting a good school report: \$5.00

Mom, when you add it up the total owed is: \$14.00

His mother looked at him for a moment, and then she picked up the pen, turned the paper over and wrote the following words:

For the nine months I carried before you were born: No Charge.

For all the nights that I've sat up with you, nursed you and prayed for you: No Charge.

For all the trying times, and all the tears that you've caused through the years: No Charge.

For all the nights that were filled with dread, and for the worries I knew were ahead: No Charge.

For the toys, food, clothes, and even wiping your nose:
No Charge.

Son, when you add it up, the cost of my love is: No
Charge.

That is what Christ says I came and personally paid for
your sin: 'No Charge'???

We can only say, "What a wonderful Saviour; and How
Much He Must Love Us!"

We not only learn How Terrible Our Sin Is and How
Much God Loves Us but we also learn:

C. Its Ok To Feel Abandoned Sometimes

In the Bible Job felt abandoned by God. He lost his
family, his wealth and his health. He felt kicked down
by God, abandoned and forsaken.

In this passage the Lord asks the question "Why" which
was a prophecy of what He would speak on the cross.

Matthew 27:46

⁴⁶ *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud
voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say,
My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*

Sooner or later many of us will ask the question.

Where are you Lord?

When a plane crashes, when a relationship breaks up, when someone you love dies, when sickness strikes, when God doesn't seem to answer your prayers in your timing.

At that time, remember that you are in good company – with the Lord.

Even good Christians will feel abandoned sometimes.

But God's promise is still true: "He will never forsake us."

We not only learn "How Terrible Our Sin Is"; "How Much God Loves Us"; and "It's Ok to Feel Abandoned Sometimes" but we also learn:

D. What To Do In Our Darkest Hour

A young Jewish girl lived in the Warsaw ghetto in the darkness of the 2nd World War.

She hid from the Nazis in a cave, and wrote these words of a poem on the wall of the cave:

“I believe in the sun even though it is not shining. I believe in love even when feeling it or not; I believe in God even when He is silent.”

Quote:

Spurgeon once said, “in the “awful darkness of that midday midnight” Jesus took hold of his God with both hands when he said MY GOD... MY GOD...

At the end of the day, you see, when Jesus screamed these words they were not words of despair... they were words of faith.

Those words were not Jesus’ last words.

What you do in your darkest hour is what Jesus did.

Call unto God.

This is NOT the end of the story.

Close:

Two things

– Be careful of listening to the opinions of others or even forming your own conclusions.

Our beliefs and actions should be grounded in the Scripture.

– When life tempts us to ask why; call unto the Lord.