

Not Forsaken
Matthew 26:36-45, 47-56;
Matthew 27;
Mark 15:12-20,29-32;
Rev. Curtis Bablitz
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My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

From before the beginning of creation, from before the galaxies and stars solidified and before time itself started moving forward, the only thing that was true, always true, is that God was always there. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God was always there, and God was always Love, the boundless love within the Trinity between Father and Son and Spirit is the one and only constant, the one and only thing that has never changed, could never change. No matter what happened, at every single moment, this has always been true. God is here, and God is love.

Until now. Here on a wooden cross on a hill outside Jerusalem, God in human form hangs, betrayed, condemned, tortured, alone. And in that moment, the bonds of love that have always existed between Father and Son and Spirit, the love that called creation into being, the love that has sustained and energized every kind of life, every form of life, those bonds are broken. The Father turns his face away from the Son. The Son cries out, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Jesus Christ dies on a cross, alone, truly alone, more alone than anyone has ever been in the history of the universe before or since, cut off from his very self. There on the cross, as Jesus suffers

and dies, God learns what it is like to be forsaken, to be lonely, to be abandoned, there on the cross, brokenness and pain and heartache and death become part of who God is. There on the cross, Jesus Christ was forsaken. There on the cross, he was alone.

And because of that moment, because of that cross, we can never be alone again. Because of the cross, we can not be forsaken. Whenever we feel abandoned, whenever we feel cut off, whenever the bonds of love that bind us to the world around us seem to be falling apart, there in that darkness, we will meet Jesus Christ. There in that darkness, the light of Jesus Christ still shines. Because he was forsaken, we are reconciled. Because he was broken, we are made whole. Because he was cut off, we are brought into the everlasting love that still goes on between Father, Son and Spirit, we are part of that love, part of that communion, part of that family, no matter what. God has shared in our brokenness so we can share in God's love, in God's life, so that no matter where we go, I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. We are not forsaken. Amen.