

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

The Cross – Lesson 5

Why hast thou forsaken me?

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To begin this Bible lesson, we need to lay some ground work to help you completely understand the subject. Turn to Psalm 22 and Matthew 27. When teaching on the cross, there is Old Testament prophecy and New Testament fulfillment. We rejoice when we consider the cross, although there is much sorrow in mediating on what our Lord did to restore His fellowship with us. Let us humbly consider the cross.

Psalms 22:1-6 My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. Now turn to Matthew 27:44-46 The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth. Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. 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?

The four Gospels do not go in to detail about the torturing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was spit upon, struck, mocked, and scourged. The New Testament does tell us that He suffered physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Let's look more closely at some of the verses regarding His sufferings.

- Physically - Being spit upon is the most disgusting, degrading act of anger, hatred, disrespect, and contempt, especially when done to The King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Job 30:8-10 *They were children of fools, yea, children of base men: they were viler than the earth. And now am I their song, yea, I am their byword. They abhor me, they flee far from me, and spare not to spit in my face.* See also Matthew 27:30.
- Physically - Blindfolding then striking in the face is a childish coward's way of hitting someone. Then mocked Him, saying, *Prophecy, who is it that smote thee?* (Luke 22:64; Zechariah 13:7; Isaiah 50:6.) He knew everything about who was hitting Him. Those who hurt the Lord Jesus Christ will hurt forever in a lake of fire that burns with brimstone.
- Emotionally - Consider the hurt Jesus experienced when He was led before Caiaphas, turning around seeing His disciples fleeing in all

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directions so as not to be implicated being with Jesus. (Mark 14:27; Matthew 26:56; Zechariah 13:7.)

- Emotionally - Jesus hand selected Judas Iscariot to be one of His Apostles, He trained him and let him personally watch the power of God right before his eyes. Then Jesus saw Satan enter into to his heart and betray Him for money. (Psalm 41:9; Psalm 55:12-14; Matthew 26:14-16; John 13:26-27.)
- Emotionally - There is said to be over 200 people for whom Jesus worked miracles, improving their life, yet the Bible only records a few that were at His crucifixion - His mother Mary, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, Mary Magdalene, and His brother John. (John 19:25-27.)
- Spiritually - He cried as He hung on the cross, not for the death of a good friend (John 11:14), nor for Jerusalem whose history was depressing (Matthew 23:37-38), but now for His separation from His Father. God Almighty turned off all the lights (Luke 23:44) so as not to look upon His Son as He took all the sins of the world upon Himself (If we think back to the first time we were ever separated from our mother in a store, we can remember the horror and sadness that went through our minds.) This was first time Jesus had ever been separated from His Father, and it broke His heart, Matthew 27:46 *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?*

Let us reverently get into the mind of Jesus while he was being physically tortured and as the soldiers spat on Him. He may have remembered when He restored the eyesight of the blind man by spitting on the ground, making clay. John 9:6 *When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,* As they mocked Him, He may have thought about how He fed the 9000 plus from a few loaves and fishes. Matthew 15:38; Luke 9:16; *Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude.* As they struck Him, He may have thought about Tabitha who was dead but was alive. Mark 5:41 *And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.* As they stretched out His arms and His legs and then pounded in the nails, He may have thought about His purpose. Hebrews 12:2 *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Whatever went through the mind of Christ during His crucifixion, we will find out when we see Him face to face. This one thing we do know for sure, He

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did it all for one reason, us. To restore the fellowship that was broken in the Garden of Eden through disobedience. Genesis 3:6-7.

Hebrews 10:25 *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

You might be thinking, what does Hebrews 10:25 have to do with anything we are discussing?

The Church is referred to as the body of Christ, and as the body has many members, so does the church have many members. When Jesus was in Heaven with His Father, they were in perfect union. Each member in the body of Christ has his or her function. You may be a prayer warrior, maybe an encourager, maybe helpful to others through your experiences in life, maybe a pastor or teacher, maybe even a burden bearer. Yes, all those special gifts are for every body in the Church. Some may think that their gift is less honourable, but that is not true because the physical body needs all its parts to function efficiently, and so does the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:23 *And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.* If you stop going to Church, then you are wounding the body and yourself because you do not have the fellowship of others to keep you strong.

Romans 12:4 *For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:* Read also 1 Corinthians 12:21-24 We need to stay in fellowship with Jesus Christ and with other likeminded believers in the body of Christ.

Jesus Christ, for all eternity, has been gloriously, perfectly one with His Father. They had so enjoyed one another's company and fellowship up until about 6000 years ago when God said, *Let us make man in our image,*. Then sin entered into the world. Jesus Christ had to come to earth and become man, yet still in perfect union with His Father. When Jesus Christ was on the cross, He took upon himself all the sin of the world - past, present, and future - and nailed it to the cross. (Colossians 2:14) He was there, crying out to His Father, because they were separated. Jesus had to become sin, who knew no sin. (2 Corinthians 5:21) Because of our sin, Jesus Christ had to be separated from His father. It is natural for sinners from birth to be separated from God, yet it is very unnatural for God the Father to be separated from God the Son. Because of our sin, the Son was forsaken by the Father; the relationship they enjoyed was severed by sin. Therefore, Jesus cried out, *My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?* Psalm 22:1 This was the question from the heart of the sufferer. *Why are thou so far from helping me* (look at those words and consider) *the words of my roaring?* Prior to the cross, Jesus had offered up prayers to His Father, and the Father had heard Him (Hebrews 5:7); but now His Father was silent.

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Psalm 22:2 *O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.*

Jesus was roaring according to Psalm 22:1. Why don't you hear me? The Father did not hear Him. The Son was reminded of Psalm 22:4 *Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.* Jesus might have been thinking, "You helped Noah, Isaac, the children of Israel, Joshua. Whenever a man called out, you helped. I'm roaring, crying, weeping. Why don't you hear me? Why won't you help me?"

There are two reasons seen in Psalm 22 why the Father is not hearing the cry of His son. First reason - Psalm 22:3 says, *but thou are holy.* As Jesus Christ hung upon that cross, He said, "Could it be that you're not helping me because you are holy? The second reason - Psalms 22:6 *But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.* Jesus calls himself a worm. A worm is the lowest state of man. See also Job 17:14; Job 25:6. Jesus goes from being the Living water to a worm. The word "worm" is used in connection to a lost person in Hell. (Mark 9:44, 46, 48.) Why had God forsaken Him? Because He took my sin in His body on the cross. And as he hung there in my place, He was not holy, no longer the spotless Son of God, nor the sin cleansing Lamb. He was me in all my sin. God was not coming to help him. He was going to pour out His wrath upon Him. He was going to put Him to death because the wages of sin is death. He was not only me, He was you and all who have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Ephesians 2:12 *That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:*

If you do not have God in the world, you are without hope. When Jesus Christ took our place, for those hours of time upon the cross, He was without God in the world. He was forsaken. He became what you would have been eternally had you died without Christ as your Savior. 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Jesus Christ had no sin of his own. The Father put your sin on Him. We have no righteousness of our own. The Father placed Christ's righteousness on us.

How dare you put baptism, church membership, or your good works above the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross?

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Once I trust Christ as my Savior, He will never leave me, never forsake me. When troubles, trials, despair, and doubt overwhelm me, the scriptures promise *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.* 2 Corinthians 4:8-10 And GOD cannot lie!!!

(Titus 1:2)

Next time you think about Jesus Christ, you should be sorrowful, as if you remember a past loved one who has died. Think about Christ's physical pain, His emotional pain, and most of all, His spiritual pain. What He suffered and why He suffered was for us because He loves you and me.

Isaiah 53:1-12 *Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

Notes

KJV

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The Cross – Lesson 5
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Name _____

Note: (*) An asterisk indicates must include scripture with your answers.

1. How should we approach the subject of the cross?

2. What would you think God says about those who would exalt their baptism above the death of his Son?

3. When will we find out everything that happened to Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary?

4. Why does the scripture command us to go to Church? *

5. What broke our relationship with God the Father? *

6. What broke Jesus' relationship with God the Father? *

7. What are some of the thoughts Jesus might have been thinking while being tortured?

8. Where did Jesus get the sin He had on the cross? *

9. In what way are you and I alienated from God? *

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10. Explain Isaiah 53:11.

11. What were the three ways Jesus suffered on the cross? *
 - a. *

 - b. *

 - c. *

12. What is the definition of a likeminded believer?
hint: Romans 15:5-6

True/false

- Since Jesus died for all sins, then everyone gets to go to heaven.
- The reason why the Father did not answer Jesus on the cross was because He is Holy.
- It is Ok to watch Church from home on Live Stream or TV because I want to save gas.

**Scripture memorization**

Psalm 22:1; Hebrews 10:25; Ephesians 2:12

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?