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Yesterday we continued our series leading up to Easter in Psalm 22. We were in verses 6-11 as the Psalmist expresses more of his pain and anguish, especially due to the mocking taunts of his enemies, as well as his trust & faith in his God to provide.

We began our time together though considering why spend time in Psalm 22 and noted 3 important ones:

- 1) because it is part of scripture! We saw in 2 Timothy that all scripture is God-breathed and so important for us to get to grips with. If we're selective with our bible, so we'll end up selective with our understand of both God and what it means to follow him.
- 2) because it Jesus quotes from Psalm 22 – My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? As Jesus takes these words, so the gospel writers draw on them, as well as later NT writers too.

We noted the various links:

22v1	Matthew 27v46, Mark 15v34
22v7	Matthew 27v39, Mark 15v29, Luke 23v35
22v8	Matthew 27v43
22v15	John 19v28
22v16	John 20v20
22v18	John 19v24, Matthew 27v35, Mark 15v24, Luke 23v34
22v22	Hebrews 2v12

- 3) because the Psalms are God's songbook for us when life is hard. In the Psalms God gives us a resource to help us. When we do not have the words he gives us the words.

We initially noted from

#### v6-8: Trouble

We noted that initially David has been 'de-humanised' in the sense that he feels like a worm (an animal, disposable, unpleasant, associated with decay) and that everyone has turned their backs on him and are mocking him. It's particularly painful too as David 'delights' in the Lord (to the extent that enemies know and mock him for it).

We noted that this is the reality for brothers and sisters around the world today who are mocked and taunted, dehumanized (and then even disposed of).

We then noted Matthew 27v32-44 as Jesus fulfills these verses with all of humanity united against the Messiah – mocking and taunting him as he dies. The reality is Jesus could have saved himself, but at the expense of us as we would still be in our sin.

#### v9-11: Trusting

The Psalmist continues to trust though – he looks back as far as his birth and acknowledges that God has always been sovereignly personally providing for him. And so he calls for his presence and protection and helping again now. God has always been there for him – now he is not. But now he needs him.

Jesus however was abandoned and died. He was totally forsaken by God, but finally because he **was** forsaken, so we finally will **not** be forsaken. Whilst we may feel forsaken and like God has abandoned us – because we are a part of his family, because we have his Holy Spirit, so we know he will never leave us.

We also finished noting why Psalm 23 comes after Psalm 22. Because God is our Shepherd who is always with us, even when we walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death.

#### ***Here are a few questions to start discussion off - as always, feel free to adapt for your group***

What does it mean to be forsaken? Have you ever felt forsaken?

Why is it important for us to get to grips with Psalm 22?

(Feel free to get people to look up the New Testament references noted previously to engage with how the NT picks up this Psalm).

V6-8. What trouble does David describe? Why does he feel such pain in these verses? How does Jesus fit these verses?

V7-9. How can David keep trusting in the midst of the pain? What does he call on God to do?

What would you say to a Christians friend who felt forsaken?

Do you agree with JC Ryle's quotation below?

"No doubt there was a sense in which our Lord's feeling of being forsaken was peculiar to himself since he was suffering for our sins and not for his own [And] as it was with the great head of the church so it may be in a modified sense with His members. They too though chosen and beloved of the Father may sometimes feel God's face turned away from them. They too sometimes from illness of body sometimes from peculiar affliction, sometimes from carelessness of walk, sometimes from God's sovereign will to draw them nearer to himself. Maybe constrained to cry. My God My God why have your forsaken me"

Why can a Christian never finally be forsaken?