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When Jesus Took Your Sins

“At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, ‘ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACH-THANI?’ which is translated, ‘MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?’” (Mark 15:34 NASB).

Jesus had never been separated from His Father. He told the Jews, *“I and the Father are one”* (John 10:30), *“He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him”* (John 8:29). But on the cross at the ninth hour, this “oneness” was taken from Jesus, and He was separated from His Father because He took responsibility for my sin and your sin. It was shortly after this that He *“uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last”* (Mark 15:37).

We often stress the pain and suffering Jesus experienced leading up to the cross, and His torture dying on the cross, while failing to stress the greatest pain of all—the moment when He took responsibility before His Father for the sins of the world. As the Hymn puts it, “the deepest stroke that pierced Him was the stroke that justice gave.” The justice of God requires anyone with sin to be separated from His Holy presence, for *“your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear”* (Isaiah 59:2). This dooms every man that has ever lived—past, present, and future, *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23). But in God’s grace, Jesus stepped between us and our doom. He took responsibility for each man’s sins, He stood judged for them in the place of God’s justice, and He receiving the punishment on Himself—the separation from His Father that every man deserves. Jesus entered death, but because He was sinless, “it

was impossible for Him to be held in its power” (Acts 2:24b), and in taking responsibility for sins by His sacrifice, He *“obtained eternal redemption”* (Hebrews 9:12b) for separation from God, and gives it as a free gift to whoever *“believes in His name,”* (John 1:12b). *“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him”* (John 3:36). God’s gift of redemption is not available to people who refuse to turn away from their lives of sin. All Believers still **struggle** with sin (being sanctified in this life), but because we have put our trust in Jesus, *“we confess our sins,”* and *“He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9).

Jesus was not ignorant of the particulars of the sins He took responsibility for— *“He Himself knew what was in man”* (John 2:25b). *“He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him...But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering...Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors”* (Isaiah 53:5-6; 10a; 12b). Do you understand Jesus knows what you’ve done and what you do, even if no one else does? He suffered more than anyone has ever suffered because of it. It is tempting to think our “little” sins aren’t that big of a deal, but their judgment fell on Jesus in order that we might receive God’s pardon. The next time He comes, *“we will all stand before the judgment seat of God”* (Rom. 14:10b). Amen.

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