



Questions for further study - April 2nd '17

'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

Matthew 27:46

Read Matthew 27:45-50. Reflect on the physical, mental & spiritual suffering that Jesus endured.

1. Jesus quoted directly from Psalm 22. i) What do you think is the significance of this? Read Psalm 22 together, and pick out the prophecies that were fulfilled in the crucifixion. Relate this to Luke 24:27. ii) Jesus found strength to do God's will by reflecting on O.T Scripture (for example, in the Garden of Gethsemane – Matthew 26:39 & Psalm 40:8). What ought we to learn from this about how we can face the demands of giving our lives to serve Jesus?

2. In the sermon, we heard that "We live in an increasingly "fatherless" society. Many people have aching voids inside because they haven't known their earthly father's love. They've been left feeling abandoned." Jesus can help us in our times of need because he's experienced these emotions too (betrayed & deserted by his friends, turned on by the crowd, a victim of injustice, and forsaken for these hours on the cross by His heavenly Father.) Jesus willingly endured this. Reflect on the love of God. Romans 8:31 & 32. Because of what Jesus has suffered, we can find healing. Share experiences of this healing if appropriate, and discuss how we can reach people who are experiencing despair & isolation.

3. 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

What can we learn from this anguished prayer about permission to express our true feelings to God? Is this something you feel comfortable with? What confidence does the Bible give us that God hears & answers our unedited prayers? Who helps us with this? Romans 8:26,27

Give thanks for those who have recently found new life in Jesus.

Pray for opportunities over this Easter time to talk about the real celebration of Easter.