

## Sermon Follow-up | July 25, 2021

### **Re-Cover from God's Silence –**

*Focus Passage: Psalm 22:1–31*

*Larger Context: Psalm 22's Messianic aspects that New Testament authors saw fulfilled by Jesus*

*Other Passages Referenced: Matthew 27; John 19–20; Revelation 4:11*

### **Comments:**

In the *Allow the Word to Speak* section, we will again use the HEAR method—Highlight ... Explain ... Apply ... Respond.

### **Sermon Recap**

Psalm 22 is an individual lament Psalm that was converted into a choral piece for congregational gatherings. Its authorship was attributed to King David who wrote it (around 1,000 years before Jesus was born). It describes a time when David suffered unjustly from unrighteous people and felt forsaken by God. The psalm moves from the anguish of the one suffering and feeling forsaken by God, to rescue, to testimony and praise in the congregation, to the proclamation of God's Kingdom to all peoples of the earth.

During God's silence, David found himself in a situation where everything he had heard and trusted in the past about God being present and listening to his prayers seemed contradicted by his current experience. In God's silence, when David needed Him most, David relied on what he had learned and experienced about God in the past. Psalm 22 teaches that the cure to God's silence is trusting that God will be true to what He has already spoken.

David's repeated use of "My God" attests to his personal relationship with God—a "you are mine and I am yours" relationship. For those who have yet to enter a personal relationship with God by trusting Jesus as Savior and King, a next step would be to explore what is preventing them from taking that step of faith.

As soon as God rescued David, David immediately declared his intent to testify about God and praise Him among others in the congregation. A next step for some would be to engage or reengage with congregational testimony and worship. Committing to the community and service of a smaller group where testimonies are consistently shared may be a next step for those not in a group.

Although he was one of the most revered kings in Israel's history, David recognized that as King of Israel, he was in submission to a greater KING: "For kingship belongs to the LORD and He rules over the nations" (Psalm 22:18). David understood that his role and even the role of Israel were not God's ultimate concern ... The Kingdom of God was the ultimate mission. **The Big Idea** of Psalm 22 rests in our understanding of God's Mission: It's not about me ... it's not even about we ... It's about God's Kingdom over all creation.

Psalm 22 has more verses quoted in the NT than any other ... and those verses connect the righteous person being forsaken by God to Jesus on the cross.

- Like King David ... King Jesus also cried out "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- The sufferer's thirst in 22:15 is seen in Jesus' comment, "I thirst" in John 19:28
- The piercing of Jesus' hands and feet by spikes are referenced in John 20:25-27
- John 19:33 mentions that Jesus' bones were preserved from being broken and explains that as a fulfillment of Psalm 22:17

- Matt 27:35 references Psalm 22:18 as pertaining to Jesus—where executioners divided his garments among themselves and cast lots for part of his clothing.
- Matt 27:41–43 also sees a fulfillment of Psalm 22:8, when the people mock Jesus on the cross and say, “Let the Lord deliver Him now.”

Both King David and King Jesus understood that God’s mission wasn’t about protecting them from death. It wasn’t even about praising God in the congregation and it wasn’t about their country. Ultimately it was about God’s Kingdom and rule over all creation. When you may go through dark times of God’s silence, do not forget in the darkness what you have learned in the light. It is OK to honestly cry out “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ... as the first line of our lament ... but remember the song isn’t over with the first line. Remember the movement of the whole psalm that takes us out of ourselves, into the congregation, and ultimately to the Kingdom.

### Group Gathering

**Group Check-in** — Care, Celebration, Encouragement (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. Informal conversation to allow individuals to catch up with one another.
2. Ask if anyone would share how they’ve been hearing and obeying God’s direction.

**Allow the Word to Speak** — Be Hearers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

**READ Psalm 22:1–31**

1. HIGHLIGHT the verses that speak to you
  - a. Write out the name of the book and the passage.
  - b. Which chapter and verse numbers stand out to you?
  - c. Write down any questions you have about the passage.
  - d. In just a few of your own words, write a title that describes the passage.
2. EXPLAIN what the passage means?
  - a. To whom was it originally written? (A study Bible or Bible introduction may be helpful)
  - b. Why was it written?
  - c. How does it fit with the verses before and after it?
  - d. Write a short summary of what you think the passage means.
  - e. Why do you think the Holy Spirit included this passage in the Bible?
3. APPLY what God is saying in these verses to your life.
  - a. What is God saying to me through this passage?
  - b. How am I to apply this passage to my life?
4. RESPOND to what you’ve read in one or more of the following ways:
  - a. Write out what you are going to do because of what you have learned or sense the Spirit leading you to do.
  - b. Write out a prayer in response to what you have learned or sense the Spirit saying.

**Put the Word into Practice** — Be Doers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. How would you write a lament that moves from lament to congregational testimony and praise, followed by proclaiming God’s Kingdom to unbelievers?
2. What truths have you learned in the light that you are tempted to forget in the darkness? Can you look up and write down some truths from God’s word that you can recall in moments of His silence?

3. How did looking at Psalm 22:14–18 in light of the New Testament passages from Matthew and John’s gospels that reference them speak to you? (See Sermon Recap above if you have not already done this.)
4. Will you ask God to open the door for you to speak about His Kingdom in the coming week with someone who had not heard, understood, or received it yet?

**The Big Question:** What do you sense God's Spirit saying to you and what concrete action will you take in response? Share your answer with the group or another trusted Christian and ask them to pray for you.

**The individual  
was not God's ultimate mission.**

**“It's not about me”**

**All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the LORD,  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before you.**

***Psalm 22:27***

**The congregation  
was not God's ultimate mission.**

**“It's not even about we”**

**The Kingdom of God  
was God's ultimate mission.**

**“It's about God's Kingdom over all creation.”**

**For kingship belongs to the LORD,  
and he rules over the nations.**

***Psalm 22:28***



# **The Big Idea**

**God's mission:**

**It's not about me ...**

**It's not even about we ...**

**It's about His Kingdom over all creation.**