

## WORDS OF MISERY: “WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”

Matthew 27:46

“My, God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” There may be no sentence in all Scripture that is more difficult to explain than this one. It’s said that Martin Luther fasted and meditated for hours on this verse, and when he finally spoke, it was to declare, “God forsaken of God! Who can understand *that*?” Indeed, to fully grasp our Lord’s meaning and experience in Matthew 27:46, we would have to *fully* grasp the mysteries of the Trinity—one God eternally existing in three equal but distinct persons—and *fully* grasp the mysteries of the incarnation—the union of human and divine natures in the one person of Jesus Christ. And since our earthly minds cannot comprehend such heavenly realities, God’s people are backed into the corner of our finitude. There are things in this horrid scene that we just can’t fully understand. But, by God’s grace, there are also some things we get to understand more fully *because* of this horrid scene.

Things we can’t fully understand

- Darkness 27:45
  
- Desertion 27:46  
Isa. 53:10; 26:39; 1 Cor. 15:3  
2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24

Things we get to more fully understand

- Scripture’s accuracy Matt. 19:4; John 17:17
  
- Christ’s misery Phil. 3:7–11; Heb. 5:7
  
- Sin’s severity Rom. 6:1–14; Gal. 5:19–21
  
- God’s integrity Rom. 5:9; 2 Tim. 2:13; 1 John 4:10
  
- Salvation’s availability Heb. 13:5

## WORDS AROUND THE CROSS

February–April 2025

February 23	“Words of Mercy: ‘Father, Forgive Them’”	Luke 23:34
March 9	“Words of Destiny: ‘You Shall Be With Me’”	Luke 23:43
March 16	“Words of Sympathy: ‘Behold, Your Son’”	John 19:26–27
March 23	“Words of Misery: ‘Why Have You Forsaken Me?’”	Matthew 27:46
March 30	“Words of Frailty: ‘I Am Thirsty’”	John 19:28
April 6	“Words of Tranquility: ‘I Commit My Spirit’”	Luke 23:46
April 11*	“Words of Prophecy: ‘Hosanna in the Highest!’”	Mark 11:1–11
April 18†	“Words of Certainty: ‘It is Finished!’”	John 19:30
April 20‡	“Words of Victory: ‘He has Risen!’”	Luke 24:1–12

---

\* Palm Sunday

† Good Friday

‡ Easter Sunday