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# The Gospel of John: Behold the Man

John 19:17-37 (Part 2)

Psalm 22

Pastor Brad Wood

As we continue our study of Jesus on the cross, we look at the prophetic statements of Psalm 22. We're invited to witness the incredible foreshadowing of Christ's crucifixion, written a millennium before the event. This psalm, penned by David, offers us a vivid portrayal of the suffering Messiah and the triumphant resurrection that follows.

As we delve into its verses, we're struck by the precise details that align with Jesus' experience on the cross - from His cry of abandonment to the dividing of His garments. This remarkable prophecy strengthens our faith, reminding us of that God's plan for our salvation was intricately woven throughout history.

It challenges us to trust in God's sovereignty, even in our darkest moments, knowing that He sees the end from the beginning. Just as the psalm moves from anguish to victory, we're encouraged to persevere through our trials, confident in God's ultimate triumph in our lives.

5-Day Devotional and Small Group Guide

# Day 1: The Prophecy Fulfilled

Reading: Psalm 22:1-18

Devotional: As we read this prophetic psalm, we're struck by the vivid description of Christ's suffering on the cross, written centuries before crucifixion was even invented. This reminds us of God's sovereign plan for our salvation. Reflect on how this prophecy strengthens your faith. How does knowing that God planned every detail of our redemption impact your trust in Him for your daily life? Take time to thank God for His meticulous care in orchestrating our salvation.

# Day 2: The Cry of the Forsaken

Reading: Matthew 27:45-50

# Devotional: Jesus' cry on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" echoes the opening of Psalm 22. This moment represents the depths of Christ's suffering as He bore the weight of our sin. Consider the magnitude of God's love that would allow His Son to experience such abandonment for our sake. In what areas of your life do you feel forsaken or alone? How does Christ's experience on the cross speak to those moments? Remember that because Jesus endured separation from the Father, we never have to.

# Day 3: It is Finished

Reading: John 19:28-30

Devotional: Jesus' final words on the cross, "It is finished," mark the completion of God's redemptive plan. This declaration assures us that the work of our salvation is fully accomplished. Reflect on areas in your life where you might be striving to earn God's favor rather than resting in Christ's finished work. How can you more fully embrace the freedom and peace that comes from knowing your salvation is secure? Thank God for the completeness of His gift in Christ.

# Day 4: From Suffering to Glory

Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Devotional: This passage beautifully captures Christ's journey from the glory of heaven, through the suffering of the cross, to His exaltation. It reminds us that God's plan often involves suffering before glory. Consider how this pattern might apply to your own life and challenges. Where might God be using difficulties to shape you for His purposes? How can Christ's example inspire you to embrace humility and service, trusting God for the outcome?

# Day 5: Our Intercessor

Reading: Hebrews 7:23-25

Devotional: The transcription highlighted Jesus' ongoing role as our intercessor. This passage in Hebrews affirms that Christ "always lives to make intercession" for us. Meditate on the comfort and strength this truth provides. How does knowing that Jesus is constantly advocating for you before the Father impact your approach to prayer and daily challenges? Take time to sit in silence, allowing the Holy Spirit to align your heart with Christ's intercession for you. Close by offering your own intercessory prayers for others, seeking to reflect Christ's heart.

# Small Group Guide: The Significance of Truth

## Key Takeaways:

1. Psalm 22 provides a detailed prophetic description of Christ's crucifixion, written 1000 years before the event.
2. The fulfillment of these prophecies demonstrates God's sovereignty and builds our faith.
3. Jesus' suffering on the cross was for our salvation, showing God's immense love for us.
4. Through Christ's work on the cross, we are saved "to the uttermost" and continuously interceded for.

## Discussion Questions:

* How does the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies in Jesus' crucifixion strengthen or challenge your faith? What implications does this have for trusting God's promises in your own life?
* The sermon discusses how Jesus felt forsaken on the cross. How do you reconcile this with the idea of God's constant presence, and what can it teach us about dealing with feelings of abandonment?
* How does the concept of being 'saved to the uttermost' (Hebrews 7:25) impact your understanding of salvation and your daily walk with God?
* In what ways does Psalm 22's prophetic depiction of the crucifixion deepen your appreciation for Christ's sacrifice? How might this change the way you approach worship or prayer?
* The speaker emphasizes the importance of silence in prayer and developing intercessory prayer. What practical steps can you take to cultivate a deeper prayer life that includes listening to God?
* How does the idea that God sees your future perfected self impact your view of personal struggles and the process of sanctification?
* The sermon touches on God's plan for Israel and the church. How do you understand the relationship between Israel and the church in God's overall plan of redemption?
* What does it mean to you personally that Jesus' last words on the cross, 'It is finished,' were prophesied in Psalm 22? How does this affect your understanding of God's sovereignty?
* The speaker discusses how all earthly things fade in comparison to Christ. In what areas of your life do you find it most challenging to prioritize your relationship with Jesus above all else?
* How does the detailed fulfillment of prophecy in Jesus' crucifixion influence your approach to sharing the gospel with others who may be skeptical about Christianity?

## Practical Applications:

1. **Prayer**: This week, spend at least 10 minutes each day in silent prayer, focusing on listening to God rather than speaking.
2. **Reflection:** Spend some time this week journaling about areas in your life where you might be questioning or struggling with God's truth. Bring these to prayer and seek wisdom from Scripture.
3. **Scripture Study:** Memorize a verse from Psalm 22 that resonates with you, reflecting on its prophetic significance.
4. **Accountability:** Partner with someone in the group to encourage each other in pursuing and living out God's truth this week.
5. **Thankfulness:** Write a letter of gratitude to Jesus, acknowledging His sacrifice and the prophecies He fulfilled.
6. **Service:** Practice sharing your faith with someone this week, focusing on the truth of who Jesus is and what He's done in your life.

## Further Discussion Questions:

* What stood out to you most from the sermon about the prophecies fulfilled in Christ's crucifixion?
* How does understanding the prophetic nature of Psalm 22 impact your view of Scripture and God's plan?
* The sermon mentioned Jesus' cry "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" How does this help us understand the depth of His sacrifice?
* Discuss the concept of being "saved to the uttermost." What does this mean for our daily lives as believers?
* How does knowing that Jesus "always lives to make intercession" for us affect your approach to prayer and your relationship with God?
* Pastor Brad emphasized the importance of silence in prayer. What challenges do you face in practicing silent, listening to prayer?
* How can we apply the truth that "Jesus is truly all we need" in practical ways, especially during difficult times?

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