

Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani

Matt 27:45-54

1

45 Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. **46** About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?" **47** And some of those who were standing there, when they heard it, began saying, "This man is calling for Elijah." **48** Immediately one of them ran, and taking a sponge, he filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink. **49** But the rest of them said, "Let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him." **50** And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. **51** And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. **52** The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; **53** and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many. **54** Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

According to Thayer's Greek Lexicon...

Kardia, Kardias

2

The heart

1. **Properly:**
That organ in the animal body which is the center of the circulation of the blood, and hence, was regarded as the seat of physical life: 2 Sam 18:14 (where Joab stabs Absalom in the heart)
2. **Universally:**
Kardia denotes the seat and center of all physical and spiritual life
 - A. the vigor and sense of physical life (Ps 102:4)
 - B. the center and seat of spiritual life, the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors
 1. Universally: Matt 5:8
 2. Specifically, of the understanding, the faculty and seat of intelligence
 3. Of the will and character:
 4. Of the soul so far forth as it is affected and stirred in a bad way or good, or of the soul as the seat of the sensibilities, affections, emotions, desires, appetites, passions: Luke 24:32
 5. Of a soul conscious of good or bad deeds (our conscience): 1 John 3:20 f
3. Used of the middle or central or inmost part of anything, even though inanimate: Matt 12:40

3 Our text this morning is from Matt., and describes the last moments in the life of Jesus the Christ. The quote there is from **Psalms 22**, “Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani”, shows the writer there, presumably David, at a time in his life when he is at a low point. He is in the depths of his despair as he looks at himself and considers his ways in regard to God’s truth. He recognizes that he has failed miserably and finds himself in condemnation because of his sin. He feels his solitude, because his sin has separated him from God. He cries out in his despair and loneliness, asking God why has he been forsaken. Continue reading through the chapter though and the writer realizes that while he feels alone in his struggles against the power of Satan and his own sin, the truth is that God has already provided the avenue to be restored back to Him, through His Word. Consider this, as we look back at Matt. 27, here we see Christ, He who was sent to pay the price for our sin, as He hangs upon that bitter cross, having endured cruelties, tortures, and for the first time the bitter taste of sin wages, not His, but ours, for this is the price He had to pay so that you and I might have a pathway back to God, as we see in;

4 **2 Cor 5:21**

4 21 Him who knew no sin he made (to be) sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

5 **Heb 9:26-28**

5 26 else must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once at the end of the ages hath he been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And inasmuch as it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this (cometh) judgment; 28 so Christ also, having been once offered to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time, apart from sin, to them that wait for him, unto salvation.

Consider again our Lord, who is experiencing the wages of our sin, the despair that sin leaves us in, is there any wonder why He would quote Psalm 22? Why He would feel that same sense of desperation that sin leaves us with? Yet, as with us, God had not left Him alone or without an avenue of hope, as was promised in;

6 **Ps 16:10**

6 10 For Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol; Neither wilt Thou allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay.

This passage was quoted by Peter in Acts 2, to help those gathered together there on the day of Pentecost come to an understanding of who and what Jesus really was, and just as importantly, to show once again, that God provides for man a way of escape.

7

(God Will Take Care of You, 462)

8

That escape, is the focus of this discussion.

Peter, beginning in verse 13 of Acts 2, lays to rest their concerns and confusion about what they were seeing and hearing, the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, and then using the prophets, the writings they were familiar with, he shows that this had all been foretold by God. Then, building his argument logically, he illustrates that the prophets were not talking about David, since David’s grave was with them even then. Peter then begins to show them that Jesus was the subject of the prophecies, proven to be so by the signs and miracles that He performed among them, witnessed by thousands.

9

Here are the facts as presented by Peter in Acts 2;

1. God promised an avenue of redemption in the Day of the Lord.

2. God keeps His promises, as evidenced by the history of His relationship with man from the beginning.
3. God sent the redeemer
4. God promised that this redeemer, although being put to death at the hands of the lawless, would not see corruption in the flesh. *(This being part of the evidence as to the fact that He was indeed the redeemer)*

10 *These are the facts. The question is, what do we do with them?*

Peter continues his argument and begins to show that Jesus is the redeemer sent by God,

11 *(Salvation has Been Brought Down, 686)*

As he pursues his argument, Peter points out the signs and miracles that they had witnessed and heard accounts of that had been performed by this Jesus. He affirms what they all knew, that they had been instrumental, screaming to Pilate to crucify Him, in putting this Jesus to death. Peter points out that the signs and miracles He performed proved that He was sent from God and was in fact the Messiah. Then Peter affirms that God did indeed keep His promise, that “The Holy One would not see corruption.”

12 *(Christ Arose, 174)*

Take a moment to notice the beauty of David’s comments as quoted by Peter in v. 25-28,

Acts 2:25-28

13

25 'I was always beholding the Lord in my presence; For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. **26** 'Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue exulted; Moreover my flesh also will abide in hope; **27** Because Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Hades, Nor allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay. **28** 'Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; Thou wilt make me full of gladness with Thy presence.'

14 *“Made known the ways of Life, made full with thy presence”*

15 *(Let the Beauty of Jesus, 454)*

What do you think the point here is? Why, in an argument that Jesus is the Holy One, not David as they thought, would this be an important point to make? Is it not that the “Way of Life” and the “Gladness or Fullness of His presence” can only be found in Christ?

John 14:8-10

16

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." **9** Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father ; how do you say, 'Show us the Father'? **10** "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.

Christ Himself says that to be filled with the “Gladness of the presence of God”, be filled with Him.

And as we see in...

John 14:5-6

17

5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.

Christ says that He is the "Way"...

18

(Where He Leads, 498)

Peter has built his argument, presented the evidence and now indicts them of having crucified Jesus the Christ.

Note what is written in....

Heb 6:3-8

19

3 And this we shall do, if God permits. 4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame. 7 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls upon it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; 8 but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.

What do we do with facts? Do we look at the evidence and ignore it as they did, and crucify Christ anew...

20

(Shall I Crucify my Savior, 346)

Or do we allow the evidence to touch our hearts and souls and respond....

21

"What must we do?"

Peter's response to them is the same for us today....

Acts 2:38-39

22

38 And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 "For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself."

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