**Sermon Notes**

**“Darkness and Death”**

**Mark 15:33–39**

**33 At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 34 And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, *“Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani*?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”). 35 When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.” 36 Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said. 37 With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. 38 The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. 39 And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”**

**33 At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.**

God is gathering up the totality of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against human sin and evil, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ upon Jesus.

**34 And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, *“Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani*?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).**

**Psalm 22:1–2**

**1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? 2 My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest.**

This is the moment of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ between God the Father and Jesus.

**34 And at three in the afternoon…**

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sacrifice (Exodus 29:38–39)

**38 The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.**

Through Jesus, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and assured of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ here and now

**39 And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”**

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What new or fresh-to-me insight did you gain from this message? How do you plan to respond to it.

2. This message emphasized Jesus’ self-giving sacrifice for our sins. What challenges do we face when trying to share with others the truth that i) we are sinful and ii) we need Jesus’ atoning sacrifice in order to be forgiven?

3. Today many people are uncomfortable with the idea that God judges personal sin. But what are the consequences of believing in a god who “just forgives”? How would you explain the necessity of God’s fierce judgement against sin and evil to someone who thought of God as “just loving, kind, and forgiving”?

4. Real through Psalm 22 as a group. How many verses speak directly to Jesus’ suffering? How does the Psalm end? How is this connected to the resurrection of Jesus?

5. Read Hebrews 10:1-4. What does the writer of Hebrews tell us about the power of ritual animal sacrifice to take away sins?

6. Read Hebrews 10:11-14. How is the high priest Jesus superior to all previous high priests? What was the nature of his sacrifice and what does it secure?