

**UTTERLY ALONE**  
**MARK 15:33-35 / 11-1-17 / WED**

**I. FIRST, JESUS EXPERIENCED DARKNESS ON THE CROSS.**

- A. Mark recorded this darkness—Mark 15:33.
1. Tertullian recorded that it was a world-wide darkness.
  2. It couldn't have been a solar eclipse because it was Passover and it always occurred during a full moon.
  3. There is no historical record of a sandstorm or intense cloud cover during this time.
  4. Luke gives us additional information—Luke 23:44-45.
  5. Luke indicates it was a supernatural occurrence.
  6. It was also prophesied—Amos 8:9.
  7. It was also similar to the darkness of the ninth plague in Egypt—Exo. 10:22.
- B. There are spiritual implications too of this darkness.
1. It identifies Jesus with the sinner's darkness.
    - a. Sinners have a darkened mind—Rom. 1:21.
    - b. Sinners deeds are mar
    - c. rked by darkness—Rom. 13:12.
    - d. The wicked powers of the devil are characterized by darkness—Eph. 6:12.
    - e. Eternal darkness awaits those who die in their sin—Matt. 22:13.
  2. It should also remind us that Jesus alone is the answer for this spiritual darkness—John 8:12.

**II. SECOND, JESUS NOT ONLY EXPERIENCED DARKNESS ON THE CROSS, HE ALSO EXPERIENCED DISPAIR.**

- A. Mark records Jesus' despair—Mark 15:34.
1. Jesus' cry was a fulfillment of prophecy—Psalms 22:1.
  2. Rather than being a question of doubt, it was a cry of faith—“**MY God, MY God**”.
- B. Jesus' despair was the result of his abandonment.

1. The word “forsaken” means “**abandon**” or “**desert**”.
  2. Why did his Father abandon him?
  3. Sin is the only thing that can separate a person from God—Romans 6:23.
  4. Therefore, when Jesus became sin for us, his Heavenly Father had no choice but to forsake him—Isa. 53:6; 2 Cor. 5:21 and Heb. 9:28.
  5. So Jesus was forsaken so we would never be forsaken—Heb. 13:5.
- C. Jesus’ words were misunderstood—Mark 15:35.
1. Mark records Jesus’ words in Aramaic which are “**Eloi**” for “**My God**”.
  2. Matthew, however, records these same words in Hebrew (Matt. 27:46) which are “**Eli**” for “**My God**”.
  3. If Jesus was quoting Psalms 22:1 on the cross, which he must have been doing, he did so in the language it was written in, Hebrew.
  4. The Hebrew word “**Eli**” could have been easily misunderstood as “**Elijah**”.

#### LESSONS FROM THE DARKNESS AND DISPAIR.

1. First, during times of suffering, God is near even when He seems far away---**Matt. 28:20 “I am with you always, even to the end of the world.”**
2. Second, during times of suffering we must remain faithful even when God seems far away—Jesus cried out “**My God**” not just “**God**”.