



Seven Days | The Week That Changed Everything

Part 5: Are We To Be The Exception?



### CONVERSATION GUIDE



### SMALL GROUPS

Throughout this series, we have walked through different moments of Jesus' final week: challenged expectations, deep invitations, difficult decisions, and personal callings. Now we arrive at the cross, where not only does the sky seem to grow dark, but so do the hearts of those who had placed their hope in Him. For the disciples, everything they had believed, expected, and followed for so long seemed to collapse before their eyes.

In **Matthew 27:45–46**, we hear Jesus cry out, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?" While He carried the weight of sin, those who followed Him were also facing a moment that was difficult to understand: the Messiah was on the cross, and the silence of God could have felt deeply unsettling. This passage reminds us that following Jesus does not exempt us from seasons of pain, confusion, or unanswered questions, but it does teach us that even in those moments, God remains present and His purpose continues moving forward.

**From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").**

**Matthew 27:45–46 (NIV)**



### LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. As we read **Matthew 27:27–31; 35–46 (NIV)**, where Jesus is tortured, crucified, and humiliated by those around Him, how do you imagine this moment affected the disciples' faith and expectations?

2. Hearing Jesus say in **Matthew 27:45–46 (NIV)**, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?”, what does this moment teach us about how God can still be at work even when His action is not obvious?
3. **James 1:2–4 (GNT)** says that trials produce perseverance and maturity. What do you think makes it so difficult to recognize that process while we are still going through the trial? What can help you continue seeking God when you do not understand what is happening?

## God’s silence does not mean God’s absence.

### **MAKE IT PRACTICAL**

Jesus invites us to remain:

1. **Don’t run even when you don’t understand.** If there is a situation this week that you cannot fully understand, avoid creating immediate emotional or spiritual distance. Take a few minutes to honestly acknowledge before God what you are feeling instead of hiding it or ignoring it.
2. **Stay even in the silence.** Set aside a brief moment each day to remain quietly before God, even if you do not have immediate answers. Sometimes silence is also an opportunity to keep cultivating closeness with Him.
3. **Trust even when you cannot see.** Think about a current difficulty and write down one concrete way God sustained you during a previous hard season. Remembering that can give you strength to keep moving forward today.

### **PRAYER**

“Lord, thank You because even in the moments we do not understand, You are still present. Thank You because Jesus remained faithful to the very end and opened a path of hope even when everything seemed dark. Help me not to drift away from You when I have questions or face difficulties. Teach me to trust that Your purpose is still moving forward.”

### **TIPS**

- Faith often matures most during seasons when not everything has an immediate explanation.
- If silence feels heavy this week, remember that even at the cross God was still fulfilling His purpose.
- Many times we understand God’s faithfulness better when we look back and recognize how He sustained us.

EASTER

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