



This Sunday we started a new Easter series in Psalm 22. For the five weeks of March we will zoom in on this prophetic psalm which looks forward to the crucifixion of Jesus. David wrote the psalm but as Acts 2:30-31 shows us he was a prophet and is looking to his greater son.

The anguish of abandonment

The first two verses speak about the anguish of abandonment that David experienced. We don't know which experiences of suffering David is drawing on in these verses, but his abandonment is characterised by God feeling distant and silent.

David may have felt abandoned by God at times; particularly during times of sin. When we sin we feel far from God, we feel we have let him down and that he is displeased with us. However, we know that these verses in Ps 22 are fulfilled by Jesus who was truly abandoned by God on the cross as he bore the sins of the world and God put his wrath on Jesus in judgement.

Trusting in a deliverer

David's experience is one of anguish and forsakenness, but he knows God, and he looks to him in the midst of his suffering. He looks to God's nature and character as one who is the Holy king ruling over the world. He is the king of Israel and they are his people. David looks to his God as the one who saves his people when they cry out to him. God never put his people to

shame. As David and Jesus cry to God we too can cry out to Him as the one who will not abandon those who trust in him because he has dealt with our sin in Jesus at the cross.

Questions to aid your study and discussion and motive your prayers.

Read through the entire psalm together and point out the different verses that are quoted or alluded to in the New Testament.

Have there been times in your life when you have felt abandoned by God? What has led you to think this?

How was David's feeling of abandonment characterised in verses 1-2 and how can this resonate to our experiences?

How does the truth that the words in verse 1 are Jesus' words and experience at the cross, change your understanding of Jesus' suffering?

Why was Jesus abandoned by God and what theologically is happening at that moment?

How does Jesus taking the shame and being forsaken for us change how you respond to and approach God when you have sinned?

Why from verses 3-5 is God trustworthy?

Share some of the times when God delivered his people when they cried out to him.

Share times from your own experience when God has delivered you and not put you to shame?

Pray for and encourage one another to seek God's forgiveness in Jesus for your sins