

PRAYING IN THE DARKNESS AT NOON

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It's Easter Sunday morning, the day that we celebrate our risen Savior. We love to talk and think and preach and sing about what took place on that first Easter Sunday morning, but before there was a resurrection, there was first a crucifixion.

The story of the crucifixion is not a pretty story. Jesus had committed no crime. Pilate tried Him only to declare that He had done no wrong. Jesus was only guilty of doing good wherever He went but to appease the hostile crowd, He was beaten beyond recognition, a crown of thorns was crammed down on His head, He was spit upon and mocked and left to weak to even carry His own cross.

As Jesus hung between two thieves, with just barely enough strength to breathe, we hear Him as He cries out, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me."

Can you relate to the cries of Jesus? Have you ever felt forsaken by God? Has it ever seemed as if God was far off and not willing to hear your cry and come to your rescue?

Mark 15:33 And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

The sixth hour was 12:00 noon. It was the hour when the sun was supposed to be shining it's brightest, yet we find it hiding its face and Jesus is left praying in the darkness.

Life is not fair. Life is not a bed of roses. Life is not all smooth sailing. On the sea of life, we are going to encounter some rough seas, some strong wind and some dark nights of the soul.

The question is not are those times coming, the question is how will we react whenever they get here? Whenever the sun hides its face and when you think things should be bright, yet they are darker than they have ever been, what are you going to do then?

Job knew what it felt like to be forsaken by God.

Job 23:8-10 Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

I want to come forth as gold! I want to live through the darkness to experience the light. There may be a cross to bear but thank God there will also be resurrection power to share!