

A Good Friday Meditation

In 1984, while on assignment with US Steel Engineers and Consultants in New Amsterdam, Guyana, our family attended the Church of the Nazarene in that town. For a Good Friday service in which various members of the congregation were asked to give a five minute message on one of the Lord's seven statements from the cross, Pastor Noland C... asked me to speak on Mark 15:34 – "ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" I struggled late at night at my desk in our bedroom as Jackie slept trying to find the right words. Suddenly, at about 4:00 A.M. the words came in a flash as rapidly as I could write them. The substance was in the form of a message from God the Father to His beloved Son shortly before noon on the first Good Friday. When I read what I believe the Lord truly had given me, I was astonished – so much so, that I roused Jackie from a sound sleep, and barely able to contain the tears, read to her what follows:

Eloi, Eloi ...

[MK. 15:34]

My dearest Son ...

In a short while, I am going to place upon you a burden no man can fathom – the horror of it is so great, that I dare not allow you, in your humanity, a full revelation of what is about to take place.

Son, your agony and suffering in the Garden last night, was the result of but a glimpse, a partial revelation, of what is to transpire. Yes, the sin of the world, from Adam's first sin, until the end of the Age, will be placed upon you. My Son, you are the sacrificial lamb slain from the foundation of the world that will put an end to sacrifice. Yes, you will bear all the deceit, murder, slander, malice, immorality, and every sin that is anathema to your very being. Yes, Son, you will bear every infirmity and derangement conceivable. I knew the horror of this was great, so I sent an angel to minister to you in your time of need, even as your friends slept.

But Son, there is one thing I will have to withhold from your knowledge. This horror is far too great for even you, my Son, to bear.

During those hours, when you become sin, as you hang naked, bleeding, and tormented on that tree, at your time of greatest need, I, your loving Father will have to desert you. You see, sin has no place in Me and I must withdraw from its presence. As your spirit, the light of life, the light of the world, is snuffed out, a darkness will settle upon the earth that is incomprehensible.

As you hang in that darkness, you will not even realize at first that my Presence has left. But, finally, the horror that something is drastically wrong will overtake you and panic will set in. At that moment, you will realize that your Father has gone. In desperation you will then cry out to your God – "*Eloi, Eloi, Lama Sabachthani?*" Your cry will be heard down through the ages for time immemorial.

Son, you know I love you beyond imagination. But you know that I love them even as I love you and am willing to give you up for a time. I know you willingly will do this for Me and them. So in my infinite mercy and love, I will withdraw from your memory the knowledge that we are to be separated.

The message was delivered to a very crowded church on Good Friday, April 20, 1984.