The Forsaken Christ

Intro: Mat. 26:56 “But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.”; Mat. 27:46 “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Forsaken is seldom used except in a bad sense. It means, “to abandon, to desert, to be left abandoned or deserted.” The Greek enkataleipo (ἐγκαταλείπω) is to leave down in. The word implies a previous union or friendship. Though Christ forsook none, he was oft forsaken.

I. CHRIST FORSAKEN BY MAN.
A. By his fellow townsmen.
1. Mark 6:1-6 “And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him. 2And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? 3Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him. 4But Jesus, said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. 5And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. 6And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.”
2. These were the people he had grown up with, He was there to bless them, but they turned their backs on him.
3. Familiarity breeds contempt. It is hard to realize anything close by is great; men, nature’s wonders, etc.
4. They also thought his origin was to humble; Mark 6:3 “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.”
   a. This is prejudice: “Poor people cannot be great."
   b. Someone said, “Prejudice is a great time saver; it enables us to form opinions without bothering to get the facts.”
5. No doubt this was a painful blow.
B. By many of his disciples.
1. John 6:60-66 “Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? 61When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? 62What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? 63It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. 64But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believe not. 65From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.”
2. At first great masses followed Christ. Teachings were simple and he did a lot for them; food, healed them, etc.
3. To be prepared for heaven hard sayings must be accepted, difficult commands obeyed, and sacrifices made:
   a. John 6:60 “Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?”
b. Christ would not lower the standard to keep disciples.
c. Christ sought quality, not quantity.

4. These disciples thought little of what they could give, but of what they could get.

C. By Judas.

1. Mat. 26:14-16, 25, 47-49 “Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests. 15And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. 16And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.... 25Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said.... 47And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. 48Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. 49And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.”

2. Here a once innocent infant came to the blackest of any human being.

3. For the love of money, he betrayed Christ for the price of a slave.

4. He was one with great potential.
   a. Out of all the Jews, he was one out of only 12 given the honor of being an apostle.
   b. In 3 ½ years he fell this low.
   c. Mark. 14:21 “The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.”
   d. True, Satan entered him, but he allowed it; Luke 22:3 “Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.”

5. Death, bad always, but to be caused by the defection of a friend adds to its bitterness.

D. By the rest of the apostles.

1. Mark. 14:50 “And they all forsook him, and fled.”

2. They had vowed never to forsake him; Mark 14:31 “But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all.”

3. Fear overcame faith.
   a. The enemy appeared so strong, Christ so weak.
   b. Through the ages have been many martyrs, but many have forsaken him in danger.

4. Be grateful for our freedoms but develop the faith to continue should they be taken away.

II. FORSAKEN BY GOD.

A. Truly a mystery.

1. Jesus crucified, one of the most agonizing forms of death ever conceived. At height of suffering God forsook Him; Mat. 27:45-46 “Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. 46And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

2. Think:
   a. When forsaken by all others, forsaken by God as well.
   b. Something God never did to another —- forsake him first. Jesus was doing just what God wanted done.

3. Luther is said to have meditated long on this then cried: “God forsaken by God. Who can understand this?”
B. **Explanation.**
1. **You and I—we are the cause.**
2. **All are sinners.**
   a. Rom. 3:9-10, 23 “What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; 10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one;... 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
   b. Gal. 3:22 “But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”
   c. 1 John 1:8, 10 “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.... 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”
3. **Every sin of every sinner placed Christ on the cross.**
   a. Gal. 3:13 “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:”
   b. 2 Cor. 5:21 “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”
   c. 1 Pet. 2:22-24 “Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth-righteously: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”
   d. He was taking our place.
4. **This with God’s love and goodness:**
   a. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
   b. Rom. 2:4 “Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”
5. **Shortly afterward God returned and the victory was won.**

III. **CHRIST WILL NEVER FORSAKE US.**
A. **Notice:**
1. 2 Cor. 4:9 “Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed”
2. Heb. 13:5 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”
B. **Man forsakes others.**
C. 2 Tim. 4:16-17 “At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. 17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.”
D. **Though there may be times when we feel God has forsaken us, He has not and will not.**

IV. **CHRIST DEMANDS THAT WE FORSAKE ALL FOR HIM.**
A. **Notice**
1. Mat. 16:24 “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me”
2. Luke 14:26-27 “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.”
B. Christ will allow no divided loyalties, or reserved commitment.

C. We do not always have to actually sell everything we have:
   1. Mat. 19:21 “Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.”
   2. We might do so and still not deny pride, envy, greed, selfishness, etc.

D. Our assets must be committed to His service; Mat. 6:19 “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:”

E. He will reward us.
   1. Mat. 19:27-29 “Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.”
   2. Mark 10:29-30 “And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel’s, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.”

Conclusion: Christ forsook all for us. Will you forsake all and follow Him?