

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

LENT 2021 PARTICIPANT GUIDE

WEEK 6: UNFORGIVEN

03.28.2021 | Mark 15:25-39

Have you ever been to a place that might be considered God-forsaken? The word usually is used to express something or somewhere that is miserable, or depressing. But what would a place be like that was literally forsaken by God? What was it like? What made the place seem godforsaken?

Was there ever a time in your life when you felt forsaken by God? Have you ever felt angry with God? Were you able to express those feelings to God?

Mark 15:25-39 captures the last moments of Jesus's public ministry before he was put to death. This scene is vastly different from the beginning moments of his ministry in Mark 1:9-11. For example, in the beginning of Jesus's ministry, heaven was torn apart and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove, whereas the curtain in the temple was torn apart in the last moments of Jesus's ministry. What are the other significant differences between these two scenes?

There are many moments in our lives when we have started with many affirmations and great hopes for the future, yet we find ourselves feeling abandoned and forsaken at the end of it. Disappointments set in, and we start to question if God is truly present, loving, and just with us. What do you do when you find yourself in these places? How did Jesus respond when he found himself in such a place?

(OPTIONAL) Where in your life, or in our community, or in our society do you feel abandoned and forsaken by God? How can we faithfully respond?

In this coming week, how will you show God's presence to someone who feels isolated and "godforsaken"?

CHURCH-WIDE MISSION: SHARING SHOES & JOY IN PERU

"I was standing in line, waiting my turn to give a Christmas gift to a child at the orphanage. One of our mission team members described how she had just watched a 12-year-old boy open his gift. Inside, he was thrilled to find a new t-shirt. "He said it was the first time in his life he owned a new shirt." Whether it's a new t-shirt, new socks, or a new pair of shoes, the real gift is what it communicates. It tells a child you're unique, you're special, you're worthy, and you're loved."

- Lanie Williams, Mission Coordinator



** Children in the Andean village Llullucha savor gifts of hot chocolate and panetone.*

Join us in serving families in Peru by donating new shoes and socks, volunteering to sort and prepare shoes for delivery, or donate to help build more bathrooms.