

Marks of the Kingdom: Making Room for the Silence of God

Mark 15:33-41

The Death of Jesus

³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").^[b] ³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah." ³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said. ³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. ³⁸ The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died,^[c] he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" ⁴⁰ Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph,^[d] and Salome. ⁴¹ In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

Small Group Questions:

- 1) What thoughts, feelings or questions are you holding after you read the text, or listened to the sermon?
- 2) Can you recall an experience in which there was an awkward silence?
- 3) Did you grow up giving or receiving the silent treatment in times of relationship conflict? What was it like to give it/receive it?
- 4) In the sermon, it was said, "Faith is staying with God even when you don't feel Him." Has it been difficult to follow God when feelings aren't present? Why/why not?
- 5) Brennan Manning has asked: "Do I worship God, or do I worship my experience of God?" How would you answer that question?
- 6) Can you recall a time when God was silent for a season, but your life was significantly changed/deepened? What happened?
- 7) From the cross, Jesus screams, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" What does this question teach you about Jesus?
- 8) What area of your life has God been silent towards you? What do you think God is doing?
- 9) What is the next step that you think God has for you in light of this message?
- 10) Close out your time together by sharing prayer requests, and prayer for one another.