



Scriptural Background: Mt 27

*"45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.
46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*" Mt 27:45–46

Sin always brings a cost. In our foolishness, we can think that these costs are arbitrary, maliciously inflicted by God "just because" for our rejection of Him. Nothing could be further from the truth! If God is light, then how can there be any life if someone rejects Him? All that is left is darkness. The consequences of sin are the perfectly natural outcome of sin itself. We see this all the way through the Old Testament, from the sacrifices required to the plagues on the Egyptians to the judgments prophesied (and, at times, delivered) against Israel and the nations. To reject God is to have disintegration, shaking, and darkness in place of life, health, and wholeness. So what is Jesus doing at the cross? Why does the darkness fall, why does the very ground shake, why is He being forsaken? It is because He is bearing the weight of our sin—He is becoming our sin itself. "God made him who knew no sin to be sin for us..." (2 Cor 5:21) All the natural outcomes of our rejecting of God were falling on Him. But look at what 2 Corinthians 5 goes on to say: "...so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." So look at the cross today. See what your sin deserved. And see Him taking your place. Then receive His.

Prayer:

LORD Jesus, for my friends and family who do not yet know You, I pray You would let them see You being rejected in their place in such a way as would welcome them in. And please help me understand what You have done for me better than my life might be further changed as well—even that seeing You in me might be one of the ways they come to understand what You did on the cross that Friday. Make me an ambassador of the reconciliation You have accomplished, I pray. Amen.