

The crowds had abandoned him, ~~then~~ ^{once they had been} excited, dreaming, hopeful. They tossed their palm branches in front of him, carpeting his way as he rode into the holy city, a king coming to rule, a king astride a donkey, a king showered by the cheers of the crowd. Now when he needed them where were they? Off taking an afternoon snooze, or drowning their sorrows, or praying that the next one who came riding into town would really be the Messiah. But this Jesus was simply a loser, a fool with no stomach for a fight.

And Peter and James and John and the rest, they were hiding, trembling at every knock on the door. Their leader was being crucified, they were probably next.

Abandoned, hanging on a cross, All Jesus had given to so many, the healing, the food, the forgiveness, the love, ~~was~~ forgotten.

And where was God? Where the voice from heaven, this is my Son, my chosen? Where the dove descending upon him? Where the angels who after temptations in the wilderness came to give him food and drink? Where the brightness, the glory of the cloud overshadowing him and the voice of God from out of the cloud, This is my Son, listen to him? Now there was no brightness, no glory, only a darkness blotting out ^{even} the midday sun.

Then the silence was broken. "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" The terrible cry, coming from Jesus. Where is your God? taunting voices had mocked from below. Where are you, my God, why have you abandoned me? cried the dying one.

Yet still Jesus clung to the one he called Father. My God, My God, he cried. Though forsaken by creation and creator, he would not forsake his God. My God.

How many they are who cry out ~~at Jesus~~ with Jesus as the earth trembles beneath their feet and their world crashed down around them. Why God, why? Jesus knows their pain, he has walked their path. Though creation and creator abandon them Jesus will not.

One day the darkness shall pass, the trembling of the earth and all its creatures shall cease, ~~the~~ tears shall be dried, ~~the~~ pain gone. One day the longings in human hearts for a new world and a new life shall be answered. Until that day Jesus, the mocked, crucified, abandoned one walks with us, every step of the way. Amen.