

## **The Lord Cried Out on the Cross**    *Mark 15:33-37*

"*My God, my God, why...*" cried Jesus on the cross. This must have been the cry of loneliness, betrayed by His people, forsaken by His disciples and abandoned by God, His Father. Crucifixion was the cruellest punishment, leading in time to death.

The suffering of the Lord, who was the Son of God but in human flesh, is indescribable. Some may say that the wretched form that was handed over to death was unworthy of the Son of God. As the Saviour, He could have escaped in some way. But it was not to be. One reason is to make us sinless as a substitute for human sin. Another is that God could experience our suffering firsthand.

Man bears hardships and crosses in his earthly life. They may even wallow in physical and spiritual pain and suffering. Jesus' cry is solidarity with these people. He could have cried out for us: "*I understand your suffering...*" Because Jesus experienced the desperate Passion, He understands the suffering of each one of us as His own.

In a situation where man seems to have been abandoned by God, at the very moment when all hope is lost, Jesus is with us (*Immanuel*). He might say, "*I understand your suffering. It's okay to cry out when it's too painful to bear.*" The certainty that God shares our suffering gives us the strength to endure and overcome.