

A. Let us consider some answers which I believe are not the reason He was forsaken

1.. The reason He was forsaken was not because He was guilty of any sinful thought or act in Gethsemane, or before the Sanhedrin or Herod or Pilate or the soldiers in Antonia Fortress or His executioners or His mockers, or even during the three hours of darkness on the cross.

In Gethsemane He did pray, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt," but He did this in perfect submission to the Father's will, as is shown by His second prayer, when He said, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Thy will be done." (Matthew 26:39, 42)

Before the Sanhedrin He remained silent until called upon to swear whether He was the Christ, the Son of God; then He affirmed that He was.

Before Herod He remained silent; and before Pilate He answered some of the governor's questions, but did so simply and without rancor.

Before the soldiers who mocked and beat Him, we have no record of Him saying anything or doing anything that might be construed as lashing out or returning evil for evil.

With respect to His executioners He asked the Father to forgive them.

And with respect to the chief priests, scribes, and elders, the people passing by Golgotha, and the thieves, all of whom insulted and mocked Him,