



The Book of Mark

Session 13: Mark 15:42-47, Matt. 27:57-65, John 19:38-42

Our Lord spent six horrific hours hanging on the cross between two thieves. He was mocked by soldiers, the Pharisees, people walking, and even the thieves on his left and right.

Our goals for this week:

- To understand the risk taken by Joseph of Arimathea
- To understand what happened to Jesus for 3 days in the tomb
- To understand why the leading priests and teachers still feared Jesus even in death

Question: What does death mean to you? Are you preparing for life eternal with Jesus?

Read Mark 15:42-47

It all happened on Friday, the day before the Sabbath. For the Jews, they call it "Shabbat". It is a holiday in which they cease, to end, or to rest on that day. See Exodus 20:89. Even to take Jesus off the cross on the day of "Shabbat" would have been considered work.

Question: We have freedom from the law of the Old Testament dealing with our Sabbath. Read Colossians 2:16-17. How do you experience "Sabbath", your day of rest?

We see Joseph of Arimathea taking a risk in asking for Jesus's body. A man who was honored amongst his peers or before the high council.

Question: Have you ever taken a risk for asking for something really important? Were you honoring in the ask?

Pilate couldn't believe Jesus was already dead. Men could hang on the cross for days before dying. Yet, for Jesus it was only 6 hours.

Question: Can you see Pilate's insecurities even in Jesus's death? He had to ask a Roman officer to confirm it, "Go and see". Can you believe the death Jesus experienced? Is it just a story or has it changed you?

Read Matthew 27:57-61

We notice in Matt. 27:60 where the wording states it was a new tomb. They actually touched a dead body. They would have been defiled for being able to eat the Passover meal, yet their devotion to Jesus, even in death, didn't stop them.

Question: In what traditions today would it be considered a defilement to do and keep you from entering into a ceremony or a moment? Have you ever had to cross that line in order to do a right action?

Read Matthew 27:62-66

The Pharisees call Jesus "The Deceiver", almost to the same place as the devil. It would have been considered work for them to walk to Pilate's house and even unclean to be in the house of a Gentile during Passover. They were still in fear.

Question: The Pharisees were living in fear about Jesus's resurrection, yet there was no remorse for the crime they committed putting to death the Son of God. What's wrong with this picture and how could their hearts become so callused?

Guards standing by and a Roman seal placed on a tomb. More fear was given in Jesus's death than even in his life.

Question: We see God's hand in this for proof that His Son will rise! Why do people today still not want to believe he rose? Is your life proof that He lives?

Read John 19:38-42

We see the love and devotion in this portion of the Bible preparing Jesus's body for burial. They took special care of Jesus even in death.

Question: We see Joseph of Arimathea hiding in secret about his devotion to Jesus. It's daylight and he takes Jesus's body down from the cross. Is your faith open in the daylight for all to see? Or is it more in the shadows fearing what people might say?

Jesus now lies in a tomb for three days. We often get asked the question "Where was Jesus in his death?"

Read Acts 2:31 and Psalms 16:10-11

Jesus had to go to Hades or Hell for payment of our sins.

Question: He went for our payment, for our sin. Do you realize the cost that was paid for our souls? Does this not entice you to go deeper in your devotion to Jesus for his sacrifice?

Read 1 Peter 3:18-19

Jesus went to hell in order to preach to the fallen angels who were held captive. See Jude 6. To proclaim he was victorious over the devil even in death. It was a declaration.

Question: Jesus was at work for 3 days even in death giving a declaration of his victory over the cross. What is your declaration of your faith in Jesus? Are you overcoming the enemy and his snares in Jesus?

Read Ephesians 4:8-10

Prior to the death of Christ, the righteous dead were saved, but since their sins were not atoned for, they were not allowed in heaven. Once Jesus's sacrifice had been applied to them, they were allowed entrance and Jesus took them there.

Question: For us who are in Christ today, when we die there is no waiting. Our sin has been atoned for. Death should not be a fear but a celebration into the next life. Are you making your life your time ready for the New Kingdom in Christ?

Your assignment: Make clear plans of being ready for each day being your last or if Christ returns. Live your life to "His Fullest".

Next week: Read Mark 16:1-20