



The Book of Mark

Session 12: Mark 15:1-41

While the Lord was being mocked and abused, Peter was in the courtyard below, trying to escape detection. Had he heeded the Lord's warnings, he would have avoided walking into temptation and denying his Master three times.

Our goals for this week:

- To prepare for the final walk from Jericho to Jerusalem
- To see how a crowd turns violent in a matter of moments
- To witness the separation between Jesus and the Father

Question: Have you ever been given a warning in your life and didn't heed what was said?

Read Mark 15:1-15

They bound him. It was considered an abomination to take a Jew and hand him over to the Romans, yet the deception ruled the hearts of the religious leaders.

Question: The religious rulers were now convinced it was time to take Jesus before Pilate. How do religious people today convince themselves of what they think is right, yet it is against God's truth? Give some examples.

In the book of Mark, we see Jesus only speaking four words to Pilate, "You have said it."

Question: Why do you think Jesus had so little to say, yet what he did say spoke about everything? Have you ever witnessed a similar situation in a time to speak and a time to be still?

The Jewish leaders weren't seeking justice, they were seeking vengeance.

Question: How could they allow their hearts to become so vengeful towards Jesus and not see the sin in their own hearts?

Pilate offered the people a choice – Jesus the Nazarene or Barabbas, the murderer and insurrectionist, thinking surely Jesus would be the people’s choice.

Question: We again see the corruption of the religious leaders invoking the crowd to their decision to crucify Jesus. Why is it important for us to be well-versed in knowledge of the truth of God so we won’t fall into the same trap of being ruled by religion?

The Gamers
Read Mark 15:16-20

The book of John 19:1-16 depicts in greater detail the scourging Jesus endured. We at times want to read quickly or skip the brutal ugliness one man can do to another. Yet God so loved us that he sent his son.

Question: When you read this, what comes to your mind? How do you see that moment?

The Roman Gamers singled someone out to taunt them before they were crucified. It was a game of beating to take someone to the point of death and not yet kill them.

Question: Pilate found no fault in Jesus, yet because of his insecurities he allowed a crowd to move him. He lacked courage. Have you ever lacked courage to do what was right in the moment?

The Crucifixion
Mark 15:21-34

Three specific times of day are mentioned in this section, 9:00 a.m. (v. 25), noon (v. 33), and 3:00 p.m. (v. 33-34).

Question: Time or timing is important to God. Good Friday is on April 19th. In what ways of your time are you willing to remember the price of the blood of Jesus in your day? Or will it be just a day looking to a weekend?

Simon from Cyrene was an innocent traveler coming to Jerusalem not knowing he would help his Savior carry the Lord’s cross.

Question: How do you think he might have felt in the moment? Why me? Or do you think he felt empathy for the man carrying the cross to Golgotha?

Even on the cross with hours left he suffered scrutiny on the cross. Take some time on your own this week and read Psalm 22.

Question: How do we wrestle in our hearts the agony of the Passion of the Christ? Does it bring sorrowfulness to your heart?

The Death

Read Mark 15:33-41

Two remarkable events occurred on his death. 1) There was an earthquake (Matt. 27:51). 2) The curtain in the sanctuary of the temple was torn in two (Matt. 27:51). The curtain signified separation from man to God.

Question: Through Christ's death came a "new and life-giving way" (Heb. 10:12-22). The curse has now been removed. How have you experienced a new life in Christ?

Only women are at the cross watching Jesus die. The disciples ran and hid. The book of John records that John was the only disciple who witnessed the crucifixion.

Question: Men continue to run and hide from being the men Jesus has called us to be. How's your hiding? Are you running from a cross or to it?

Your assignment: How can you live a life more courageous towards Jesus? Live this week intentionally with courage in knowing who you are in him.

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