Mark 15:21–47
Lesson 24

Truly no other book of the New Testament gives us the picture of Christ in terms of His humanity and servant hood as the Gospel of Mark. As we make our way through the final episode of our Lord's earthly life, this incredible passage records the complete rejection of Jesus by all of humanity. The religious leaders, the political authorities, and the common people all took an active role in this heinous condemnation of the Lord of glory. Pray for understanding and spiritual insight as we watch our King continue to surrender all in service to us.

Reviewing the Text: Mark 15:21–47

1. As we come to this final act of the Cross, carefully read the text asking the Holy Spirit to soften your heart to the realities of this awe-inspiring display of sacrifice.

2. Mark's account of the crucifixion differs from the other gospel accounts. Which key events does he choose to record, and why do you think he does so?

A Redeeming Death: Mark 15:21–41

After an excruciating scourging and unthinkable mocking, He is now forced to carry a heavy crossbeam to the place of His crucifixion—Golgotha.

3. Who was compelled to help Jesus carry His cross?

    a. How do you think Simon felt about this task *after this event*?

4. Read verse 23. What was the purpose of offering this drink to Jesus?

   a. Why do you think he refused this narcotic potion?

5. Crucifixion is one of the most horrific of deaths devised by men, with many elements that work together to cause death to the victim, yet Mark simply says, "…and they crucified Him." Do you have an opinion as to why Mark gives no further description or narrative on this?

6. After being put on the cross, the criminal has his crime written out and nailed above him. What is the accusation they give to Jesus?

   a. Do you think Pilate was making a point by insisting on this placard? If so, please explain.

7. In what way did the people continue to mock Jesus, even while He was dying on the cross?

8. Briefly note how the different witnesses of this event respond:

   Religious leaders –

   Roman centurion –

   Thieves on the cross –

   Common people –

   Women—followers of Jesus -

9. Jesus' loud cry just before His death indicates He was conscious when He died. This would be very unusual for most crucifixion victims. Why do you think this happened?

   a. When Jesus cried out, "My God, My God why have You forsaken Me?" Do you think it was His human side expressing anguish, His divine side lamenting separation from God or perhaps some combination?

Bringing it into Focus:

All the sin you ever committed and ever will commit was laid on Jesus at that moment. He willing took your punishment so that you need not face the eternal consequences of disobedience to God. Take some time to meditate on that thought, and then write out a prayer of praise to your Savior here.

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10. Read verse 38–39 and fill in the following blanks:

    Then the _____ of the _____ was torn in two from top to bottom. So when the _____, who stood opposite Him, saw that He _____ out like this and _____ His last, he said, "Truly this _____ was the Son of _____!"

    a. What is the significance of the rending of the curtain of the temple?

    b. What made this crucifixion so exceptional to the centurion?

11. At this point all of the disciples have fled and most others who are witnesses to the event are mocking Christ, but one group of His friends stood far off. Who are they?

    a. What do you think gave these women the courage to come to the cross when the others could not?

    b. Where do you think <u>you</u> would be, with the disciples or with these women?

A Revealing Love: Mark 15: 42–47

12. Who was Joseph of Arimathea and what did he do with Jesus' body?

    a. Why would he risk public condemnation by asking for and burying the body of Jesus?

    b. Who were the two women that witnessed Jesus' final breath and the place of his burial?

13. Once we receive Christ as our Savior we understand why His death was necessary. Try to explain why the world would still mock our crucified Savior. What do you think holds so many back from receiving the gift He endured so much to give?

    a. What is our responsibility to the world now that we know and receive the Truth?

    b. Take a moment to pray for ONE person you know desperately needs Jesus Christ. Come to the Cross—on their behalf and lay them before Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to keep them near to mind, constant in prayer, and open to His invitation… Then be ready to be a useful vessel in His hand.

14. According to verse 46, a stone is rolled against the entrance of the tomb, putting an end to the remarkable ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. But the best is yet to come, as we look to our final chapter in the Gospel of Mark.

Close this study with a time of worship. Perhaps you can borrow the following words to ignite a heart of passion and love for the SERVANT KING!

Man of sorrows! What a name
For the Son of God, who came,
Ruined sinners to reclaim!
Alleluia! What a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned he stood;
Sealed my pardon with his blood:
Alleluia! What a Savior!

Guilty, helpless, lost were we;
Spotless Lamb of God was He:
Full atonement—can it be?
Alleluia! What a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die;
'It is finished!' was His cry;
Now in heaven exalted high:
Alleluia! What a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious King,
All His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew this song we'll sing:
Alleluia! What a Savior!

Philip Bliss