



Week 6

Jesus' execution, death and burial

PERSONAL STUDY

Read Mark 15:21-32, Mark 15:33-41 and Mark 15:42-47

OPENING REMARKS:

No Gospel writer records the details of the Crucifixion, they only give us snapshots of what happened. God drew a veil over the scene, as if to say it is too horrible.

The Gospel of Mark gives us the Crucifixion by the clock. The first three hours were from 09:00 until 12 noon, the second three hours were from 12 noon to 15:00.

It was 9:00 in the morning when they hung Jesus on the cross. The charge against Him was written above His head: "The King of the Jews." Strange as it sounds, it was true – He did not lead a rebellion against Rome. He simply offered Himself to Israel and they rejected Him.

People mocked Jesus by saying He saved others, but He could not save Himself. And that was true – He could and did save other, but instead of saving Himself, He gave Himself to others – and therefore we are redeemed.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

Read Mark 15:21-32

Read Mark 15:21. Who was pressed into assisting Jesus to carry the cross? What does Mark say about this man to help the original readers recognize the man?

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Read Mark 15:22. Where do they take Jesus to at this time?

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Read Mark 15:23. What did they offer Jesus to drink and what did He do with it?

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Read Mark 15:24. What did the soldiers do with Jesus' clothes? What does Psalm 22:18 predict regarding the clothes of the expected Messiah?

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Read Mark 15:25. What was the time that Mark say Jesus was crucified?

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Read Mark 15:26. What did the inscription say – what was the reason that Jesus was crucified?

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Read Mark 15:27-28. Who was crucified at the same time as Jesus? What was the reason for their crucifixion?

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Read Mark 15:29-32. What was the different people's reaction when they saw Jesus on the cross?

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Read Mark 15:33-41

Read Mark 15:33. Mark gives some insight into the events that took place next. What were they and how long did it last?

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Read Mark 15:34-35. After that time, what did Jesus do? What did people around Jesus think He was doing?

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Read Mark 15:36. How did someone in the crowd respond to this outcry?

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Read Mark 15:37-38. What coincided with Jesus breathing his last?

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Read Hebrews 9:6-12. How does this passage describe the way that Jesus fulfilled and replaced the need for sin offerings?

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Read Mark 15:39. What did the centurion say when he saw the manner in which Jesus died?

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Read Mark 15:40-41. Who were the women who were watching from a distance? What does Mark tell us about these women and many others that came to Jerusalem at this time?

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Read Mark 15:42-47

Read Mark 15:42-43. Who asked for the body of Jesus? List some of the things we know about this man. What day was this?

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Read Mark 15:44-45. What surprised Pilate about Joseph's request? What did he do before he gave Joseph the body?

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How does this context help us answer those who theorize that Jesus never really died on the cross?

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Read Mark 15:46-47. How was the body of Jesus prepared for burial? Who observed the burial?

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Closing remarks:

The Crucifixion of Jesus is filled with contrasts:

- In the first three hours there was physical light, but in the second three hours there was physical darkness.
- In the first three hours there was spiritual darkness, in the second three hours there was spiritual light.
- In the first three hours Jesus suffered at the hands of man doing his worst. They hated and crucified Jesus. His enemies and even the criminal hanging with Him, reviled Him. In the second three hours, He suffered for man. God was at work. (Refer to 2 Corinthians 5:21)

- In the first three hours Jesus was dying because of sin. Sin did all it could to destroy Him. In the second three hours, He was dying for the sin of the world. He did all He could to save the world. He gave His soul as an offering for us.

Jesus was forsaken of God and yet, even during that time, God was in Christ, reconciling the world with Himself. (Refer to 2 Corinthians 5:19)

And when our salvation was complete Jesus cried out and gave His last breath. The veil between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place was ripped in two and we can now freely go to God. That is all God has ever asked any sinner to do – to come to Him in faith.

And then Jesus rose from the dead. Believing that Jesus, in His body, rose from the dead is the heart and core of what it means to be a Christian. It should inspire us to action, to go out and tell the world of what Jesus did for us.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Prayer

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

Mark 15:21-47 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Discussion questions

Discuss the statement: The Cross of Jesus Christ is both the greatest tragedy of the ages and the most glorious victory of earth and heaven. Give reasons why you agree or disagree with the statement.

Read Mark 15:44-45. What did Pilate do before he gave Joseph the body of Jesus? How does this context help us answer those who theorize that Jesus never really died on the cross? Write down an explanation for yourself following your discussion.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. How did God reconcile the world unto Himself?

Did this study change your view about the extend of Jesus' sacrifice? How? Discuss in the group.

Close in prayer