

## Spiritual Growth Questions for January 8, 2023

**Opener:** In what situation have words failed you or someone else in trying to express something important?

- 1. Read Mark 15:1-15.** The cross was a political symbol long before it became a religious symbol. Pilate knew, the crowds knew, the chief priests knew, and Jesus knew, what it meant. It was the ultimate symbol of Roman power. It said, "We are in charge here, and this is what happens to people who get in our way". How does Jesus respond to his accusers (v.1-5)? Pilate wasn't looking to crucify Jesus. What different motivations that Pilate has are revealed by his questions and actions? (6-15) Do you see any of Pilate's motivations in your own life? What helps you to deal with wrong motivations?
- 2.** The crowd probably came to Pilate to ask for the release of Barabbas (15:6-8). Why did Pilate change the subject to releasing Jesus? (v.9) Why did he finally capitulate to the crowd? (v.15) How do the voices of this world try to get you to capitulate to them?
- 3. Read Mark 15:7-15.** How does the Barabbas story help us understand some of the significance of Jesus crucifixion? What part of the Barabbas story speaks to you and why?
- 4. Read Mark 15:16-20.** How did the Roman soldiers attack Jesus physically? Emotionally? Why didn't Jesus strike them dead for doing this? What do you learn about Jesus from the way he handled his arrest and trial? How could Jesus' example help the Roman Christians suffering under persecution? How does it help us?
- 5.** How is what the soldiers did to Jesus a picture of the way humans typically respond to God? How does God respond when humans treat Him like this? What does this tell you about God? Have you ever been ridiculed for being a Christian? How did it make you feel? How did you respond? **See Romans 5:6-8**
- 6.** Consider the phrase "**Jesus Christ lived for me**" and "**Jesus Christ died for me**". What hope, joy and encouragement does this bring to your soul? Who do you know that needs to hear and receive this message? Spend some time in prayer!

**Deeper study:** In the providence of God, Jesus was executed by crucifixion (a Roman form of capital punishment) rather than being stoned (the usual way in which Jews executed blasphemers, i.e. Stephen). **Read Deuteronomy 21:22-23, 2 Corinthians 5:21, and Galatians 3:13-14.** Why did Jesus have to be crucified, not stoned, in order to accomplish His mission of giving "his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45)?

## New Life Through Jesus: A Study of the Gospel of Mark Why did Jesus Die for Our Sins? Part One

Mark 15:1-20

January 8, 2023 Pastor John Lloyd

We are continuing our study called "New Life through Jesus: a Study of the Gospel of Mark." This Gospel is the oldest gospel, and it is an assortment of biographies of Jesus. It is a book that narrates the life of Jesus. The writer, John Mark, who wrote these accounts from the apostle Peter, wants his readers to not only know the testimony of Jesus but is also inviting them to become part of the story itself. I believe God is offering each one of us new life through Jesus. In our passage today, we will follow Jesus through his trial under Pilate. We will see how he humbly submits to God's plan for him to pay the penalty for the sins of mankind. We will also look beyond the narrative to ask the question: *Why did Jesus die for our sins? What is accomplished through His life and death?* My prayer is that we will renew each of our hearts in the amazing love that **Jesus died for me**. Happy and Fruitful New Year!

Mark 15:1 And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. 2 And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." 3 And the chief priests accused him of many things. 4 And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." 5 But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. 6 Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. 7 And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. 8 And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. 9 And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" 10 For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. 12 And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" 13 And they cried out again, "Crucify him." 14 And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." 15 So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. 16 And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. 17 And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. 18 And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 19 And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. 20 And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

Why did Jesus have to go through such excruciating pain and betrayal? Why didn't he take the easy way out? Why is this so important for all humans?

**Big Idea: Jesus did more than just teach. Jesus came to pay the penalty for my sins so that I could have a relationship with God.**

**What is happening?** Jesus is handed over to Pilate vs.1-5  
Pilate's custom of releasing a prisoner at Passover vs.6 -8  
Pilate submits to the crowd's request to release Barabbas vs.9-11  
Pilate delivers Jesus to be crucified vs.12-15  
Jesus is beaten, scourged, mocked and tortured vs.16-20  
Jesus foretold how this would happen in Mark 10:33-34.

### **Who is guilty of the execution of Jesus?**

The Jewish crowds did say, "His blood is on us and on our children" (Matt. 27:25) To reject Christ and choose Barabbas was astounding.

Mark 15:11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him released for them Barabbas instead.

Mark 15:16 And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the **whole battalion**. King of the Jews Mark 15:2,9, 12, 18, 26.

*Religious* motivated rejecters sought to crush Jesus because his life provided a dreadful mirror to their soul. John 15:22 The *socially* motivated rejection by Pontus Pilate was an archetype of the hearts which would reject Christianity because it endangers status. The *politically* driven rejection wants a Christ which does things man's way. Kent Hughes

### **Why did Jesus die for our sins?**

I. His \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our souls. He is our \_\_\_\_\_.

I Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

I Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

John Oswalt states, "Somehow this Servant has actually suffered the condemnation of all the sins ever committed, and by virtue of that fact, he is able to declare all those who will accept his offering as righteous, delivered, before God." **Jesus Christ lived for me! Jesus Christ died for me!**

II. Jesus is a \_\_\_\_\_ for us to follow when we encounter \_\_\_\_\_.

I Peter 2:20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. Heb.12:3

I can think of few circumstances more intolerable than suffering abuse without hope of justice. The internal anguish can be brutal as our wounds cry out for retribution, hopelessness searches heaven for help, and loneliness pleads for a sympathetic ear. Injustice often isolates its victim so that he or she feels cut off from everyone, including God. Charles Swindoll

Although He was innocent of any transgression, He submitted to groundless accusations made against him. Isaiah 53:7, Mark 15:3

The guilty is set free and the innocent is put to death. The great sinner is delivered and the sinless remains bound. Barabbas is spared and Christ is crucified. J.C. Ryle (Constant discernment is needed to stay on the right path).

I Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Mark 15:16 And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. 17 And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. 18 And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 19 And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. 20 And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

### **Our plea must never be not that we are deserving acquittal, but that Christ died for us. Jesus Christ died for me!**

III. Jesus suffers under \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ so that we might be \_\_\_\_\_ from every charge against us on the day of judgment.

Mark 15:14 And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?"

Romans 4:25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Colossians 2:14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**We who have no righteousness of our own can now be clothed in the perfect righteousness that Christ has brought to all who trust in Him. Jesus Christ died for me!**