

Mark



Lesson 19-The Crucifixion and Burial of Jesus

Focus: Mark 15:24-47

1. They took Jesus and they crucified Him (v.24-32)

- a. ***They parted His garments and they cast lots for them.*** This had been prophesied in the Psalms a thousand years before by King David (**Psalm 22:14-19**). None of these things ever happened to David but they were prophesied of Christ—the Messiah! The method of death mentioned in this Psalm describes precisely what happened with crucifixion. Crucifixion, amazingly, was only practiced by the Romans from 150 B.C. until A.D. 320. So, how could David have known about this? God surely must have shown him in vision!
- b. (v.25,26) Jesus was crucified at the “third hour of the day” which would have been 9am. The Bible day ran for 12 hours counting from 6am to 6pm. The Jews had crucified their King; The “King of kings and Lord of lords” (Revelation 19:16). And they had fully rejected God’s rule over them by claiming to have “no king except for Caesar” (John 19:14,15; 1 Samuel 8:4-7).
- c. ***Jesus died with two thieves next to Him.*** Thus fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 53:12, “He was numbered with the transgressors.”
- d. (v.29-32) ***Jesus was mocked by his enemies and all those around.*** It looked as if all was lost for Jesus (to their eyes). “He saved others, but himself he cannot save,” they sneered (v.31). The Devil tempted Jesus to “save” himself, as the men shouted “save yourself!” (v.30). ***Yet, Jesus did not come for “himself.” Jesus came to die for and to save us!*** Little did these men know that by the death of Christ, Jesus was going to save multitudes!! So that every soul believing in Christ might not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16)! He was “saving others” but it was true, “himself he cannot save,” if He so wished to purchase and redeem fallen men. If Christ had selfishly pulled from the cross to save his own life, then all of mankind would have been lost without a hope! The Devil and Christ’s enemies boasted as if victory had been won over Christ; as if Jesus was now to appear as the loser—good for nothing. But the day of victory was at hand. ***Jesus gained such a victory on the cross that forever crushed the Devil and sealed his doom*** (though he yet roams the earth today) (Revelation 12:10,11; 1 Peter 5:8; Rev. 20:10—his day of final destruction is coming!).
- e. (v.32) ***Truly these men desired to have no belief, though they taunted Jesus with such words. They had rejected all the evidence of His being Messiah.*** Christ had worked miracles and cast out demons! They attributed it to Beelzebub, the prince of the Devils (Mark 3:22; Matthew 9:34). They had rejected the evidence of Christ’s friend Lazarus being raised from the dead. They sought to kill Lazarus because so many people believed in Jesus after seeing him raised from the dead (John 12:9-11). They would rather destroy the evidence than to believe in Jesus. The old saying by Mark Twain is very true, ***“A man convinced against his will, is of the same opinion still.”*** If Jesus had done even one more miracle for them just now, they would not have believed to the saving of their souls. They must believe purely on the basis of God’s word alone now. “If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead” (Luke 16:31).

2. It was a Dark Friday—a dark dark hour when Jesus died—even the heavens gave no light! (v.33-37)

- a. (v.33) The 6th hour would have been 12 noon. Darkness was over the whole land from that time until 3pm (“the 9th hour”). During the part of the day which should have been the absolute brightest, even the Sun was refusing to shine!! For its very Maker was being nailed to a wooden cross by the sinful hands of creatures He had once created in His own image.

- b. (v.34) **Jesus cried out with a voice that pierced the tense air.** He spoke words that had the deepest meaning, yet many standing by failed to comprehend them at the time. Perhaps later they would recognize the significance of these words. **Where did these words, spoken by Jesus, come from? (See Psalm 22:1). The words of Jesus would have pointed every soul who heard them back to the 22nd Psalm of David.** Upon searching for and reading the words of this Psalm they would have found the story of the Messiah. Clearly pre-painted and fulfilled by the life and death of Jesus Christ himself!! Truly these words expressed the pain of Jesus' soul as He felt the sins of the world being laid upon Him. And he felt the Father's Divine wrath and hatred for sin. He felt the stern judgment of God upon every sin, and for every sinner (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 John 2:1,2). He was the sin bearer (though innocent himself), and He was now feeling the terrible pain of separation from God which comes through sin—a separation His soul had never felt, and an experience most dreadful and horrid!! (**Isaiah 59:2; 53:3-6**).
 - c. (v.35-37) While evil men scurried around in their foolishness, Jesus spoke his final words and "breathed his last." **For 6 long, grueling hours, Jesus had hung upon that cross,** suffering and agonizing to hold onto his life (while yet considering the life of even his enemies). He hung from 9am to 3pm (the 3rd hour to the 9th hour). It was in this "9th hour" (3pm), the Bible tells us that Jesus "breathed His last." **Jesus went to his rest in death during the 7th hour of hanging upon that Cross.** Six days it had taken Christ to create the world (Exodus 20:11; John 1:1-3,14). But on the 7th Day, He rested!! Now, in saving fallen mankind, our Maker himself hung upon that cross for 6 long hours, and only found His rest upon the 7th.
3. **As the Life-Giver passed from life to death, some standing around felt the overpowering conviction that "truly, this man was the Son of God" (v.38-41)**
- a. Jesus died as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). At the death of Jesus the curtain in the Sanctuary/Temple was torn in half. God was showing us that there was truly no more need for the animal sacrifices to happen (v.38; ref. Hebrews 10:1-14).
 - b. As we behold the cross we cannot help but feel the conviction that an innocent and all powerful, intrinsically benevolent Being was being sent to His death! Conviction settled upon one of the guards standing by. "The Prince of Life" had become as one of us, "made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death" (Acts 3:15; Hebrews 2:9). As God alone, He could not die. But taking the form of a human being, Christ suffered death for all men, "...the wages of sin" (Romans 6:23).
4. **Christ was gathered for His burial (v.42-47)**
- a. Joseph of Arimathaea, a wealthy and influential man who had coyly been following Jesus, now boldly stepped forward to show his support in assuming responsibility for the burial of Jesus. Christ "made his grave with the wicked [dying as a sinner], and with the rich in his death" (Isaiah 53:9), being buried in a rich man's tomb "wherein never man was yet laid" (John 19:41; Matthew 27:59,60; John 19:38). As Christ was laid in the tomb, and the stone was rolled grindingly shut all became silent!! The work was done. The tomb was dark. Christ had died for mankind. The day was over. The evening was come. The Sabbath was upon the world, and all, Christ included, rested silently upon those sacred hours (Luke 23:56).

Question (s) for the Heart:

Are you willing to give all for Jesus Christ, who gave all for you upon the cross? _____ Will you receive God's forgiveness for sin through the blood of Jesus Christ? _____ (and accept His free gift of eternal life in glory!)