

Mark 15

Mark 15.1-5 – Friday of the last week

V1 – **Why did they have to have a meeting early in the morning?** To decide how to get the permission of the Roman government to have Jesus killed

-The Jews did not have the authority to execute anybody

-**Whom was Jesus delivered to?** Pilate (Roman governor of Palestine, 26-36 A.D.)

V2 – **What did Pilate want to know?** If he was the king of the Jews (this was the charge that the Jews had made against him)

-**What answer did Jesus give?** Yes

-So the Jews were going to try to have Jesus executed on a political charge (treason against the Roman government)

-**What was the irony here?** The Jews hated the Romans and their government!

V3 – **What happened next?** The chief priest accused him harshly

V4 – **What was the reaction of Pilate to these charges?** He wondered why Jesus did not respond

V5 – **What was the reply of Jesus?** No reply

-**Why did he not reply?** It was God's will at this time

-**Why was Pilate astonished at Jesus not replying?** Because Pilate must have seen that Jesus was innocent

Mark 15.6-10

V6 – **What was the custom at the Passover Feast?** For the Roman government to release a prisoner

-There is historical evidence from the Jewish Talmud of the granting of amnesty at festival times in the First Century

V7 – **Which prisoner did the Jews want to have released?** Barabbas

-**What do we find out about Barabbas?** A murderer who had tried to overthrow the Roman government

-**Did Barabbas deserve to die?** Yes - he is a stand-in for us as humans today; we all (including Barabbas) deserved to be on the cross, instead of Jesus

V8 – **What did the crowd want Pilate to do?** Carry out the custom of releasing a prisoner

V9 – **What is unusual about the wording of this question?** He seems to be mocking the Jewish leaders

-In other words, the Roman government will "release" the King of the Jews, showing authority of the Roman government over the Jewish people

V10 – **Why was Pilate mocking them?** Because he knew that the real reason for all of this hatred against Jesus was envy; the chief priests were jealous of the way the crowds loved Jesus

-This crowd is so hostile to Jesus, compared to the crowd that welcomed him into Jerusalem back

at the first of the week

-Reason? This was a different crowd; the other crowd probably didn't even know all of this was going on

Mark 15.11-15

V 11 – **What did the chief priests do?** Stirred everyone up to ask for Barabbas to be released

V 12 – Notice the satire once again in the words of Pilate

-He was a shrewd man and could see the irony of what was happening

-Notice: "...*whom you call the king of the Jews*" – More satire from Pilate

-He was rubbing their noses in it; he must have hated the Jews and was very sarcastic toward them

V 13 – **What did the crowd reply?** They wanted Jesus crucified

V 14 – **How did Pilate try to reason with them?** He wanted to know what Jesus had done that was so bad

V 15 – **Why did Pilate finally give in to the crowd?** To please the crowd and the Jewish leaders

-Pilate was a shrewd man, but a spineless one

-He has a very weak conscience – **Read Matthew 27.19 (his wife) and Matthew 27.24-25**

-He washed his hands

-Pilate released Barabbas (guilty of treason) and ordered Jesus (innocent) to be crucified

Mark 15.16-21

V 16 – Jesus was turned over to the rough soldiers in the Roman army – they were responsible for crucifying people

V 17 – **What was the attitude of these soldiers?** They liked to taunt and mock prisoners

-This shows how calloused they were

-How did they mock Jesus? They dressed him up in a purple robe and put a crown of thorns on his head (since he was going to be killed for claiming to be the king of the Jews)

V 18 – They called him by his correct title

V 19 – **How else did they torture him?** They hit him in the head, spit on him, pretended to bow before him as subjects of his kingship

V 20 – Then they led him out to be crucified

V 21 – **Who was forced to bear the cross of Jesus?** Simon of Cyrene

-It is very interesting to read more about Simon – **Read Acts 11.20, Acts 13.1, Romans 16.13**

-What is the meaning of this verse? That Simon and his sons were later converted to Christ

-They became great servants of the first century church

Mark 15.22-28

V 22 – Notice the name of the place: Golgotha (The Place of the Skull)

-It is not called Calvary - that is from the Latin word for "skull" – many of our songs talk about Calvary, but that term is not found in the Bible

-**Why would it have been called the Place of the Skull?** Some say that the hill was very rocky and was in the shape of a skull

V 23 – **What did some of the people try to do?** Give Jesus a drug to deaden the pain

-**What was the reaction of Jesus?** He would not take it and thus remained conscious to the last

V 24 – Notice the brief statement that is made here about the crucifixion

-No long, drawn-out details of the event

-**What did the soldiers do while Jesus was dying?** Gambled over his garments

-**Read John 19.23-24** (his seamless robe)

V 25 – It was about 9:00 a.m. when the crucifixion began

V 26 – **What did the sign above Jesus say?** The King of the Jews

-Actually, there were three wordings of the sign – See: *Matthew 27.37/Luke 23.38/John 19.19*

-More sarcasm by Pilate toward the Jews – he really hated them

V 27 – **Who else was crucified along with Jesus?** Two robbers

-Standard Bible commentaries will give a gruesome description of First Century crucifixion

V 28 – A reference to *Isaiah 53.12* (this is omitted in some translations)

Mark 15.29-32

V 29 – **What kind of ridicule did Jesus receive while on the cross?** People mocking him

-**What was the nature of their mocking?** He claimed to be able to rebuild the temple in three days (a fulfillment of *Psalms 22.8*)

V 30 – **What is so ironic about their statement?** They were the ones needing to be saved

V 31 – **What kind of mocking did the chief priests engage in?** He saved others, but he cannot save himself

V 32 – They were still looking for signs, but signs would never have impressed them

-Notice that at this point that both of the robbers were also mocking Jesus

-Jews of our age still do not believe in Jesus, because they say he was a failure as a Messiah (he died on a cross).

-But: **Read Luke 23.39-43** – so one of the thieves was saved before dying

Mark 15.33-39

V 33 – **How long did the darkness last?** From noon until 3:00 p.m.

-Some liberal theologians say that the darkness was a result of a sirocco (sand storm), but the Bible

does not indicate this

V 34 – **What did Jesus cry out?** "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

-This is a quote from *Psalms 22.1*

-**Why had God forsaken his son on the cross?** Because Jesus was bearing our sins as he died

V 35 – **What did some of the people standing around the cross think that he said?** That he was calling for Elijah

V 36 – **What was offered to Jesus on the cross?** Sour wine (maybe to lessen the pain)

-Read **John 19.29-30**

V 37 – At this point, Jesus died (with the sins of the world upon his soul)

V 38 – **What incredible event happened as he died?** The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom

-**Why from top to bottom?** Because that would be unnatural; several men could have torn it from bottom to top

-Josephus says that the veil was about 4 inches thick, so a miracle took place

-**What was the significance of the tearing of the veil?** The Old Testament was over

-People could contact God directly and did not have to wait for once a year when the high priest entered the Most Holy Place

-We now have direct access to heaven through Christ

V 39 – **What was the reaction of the Roman centurion standing near the cross?** Jesus was the son of God

-**Why would Mark have recorded this?** For his Roman audience

Mark 15.40-41

V 40 – **Who were some of the witnesses of the crucifixion?** Mary Madeleine, Mary the mother of James, Joses, Salome (mother of James and John)

-The first James here would have been James the Less (*Alpheus – Matthew 10.3*)

-So these women were faithful to Christ, when many of the male disciples had deserted him

V 41 – Many women had supported the public ministry of Jesus

-**Why these comments here?** A contrast to the brutality of what had just happened

Mark 15.42-47

V 42 – **When did a new day begin, according to Jewish time?** At sunset

-Jesus died at about 3:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon, so the Sabbath day was about to start

V 43 – **Who came to claim the body of Jesus?** Joseph of Arimathea

-**Who was he?** A prominent member of the Sanhedrin, waiting for the kingdom

-**What do we learn about the Jewish leaders from this verse?** That they were not all bad

-Imagine how much courage it must have taken for Joseph of Arimathea to approach Pilate and ask

for the body of Jesus

V 44 – **What question did Pilate have?** Was Jesus dead yet? (Still a very calloused attitude)

V 45 – **What did the centurion report?** That Christ was dead (important to point out to those who say that Christ never really died, but just "swooned" on the cross and later revived in the coolness of the tomb)

-So Pilate allowed Joseph of Arimathea to have the body of Christ

V 46 – **How did Joseph of Arimathea get the body off the cross?** With a linen sheet

-**What kind of tomb was the body buried in?** Cut from solid rock

-This was a fulfillment of: **Read Isaiah 53.9**

-**How was the tomb sealed?** With a stone, a large rock – **Read Mark 16.14**

V 47 – **Who was watching to see where the body was being put?** Mary Madeleine and Mary the mother of Jesus

-**Why is Mark giving us these details?** Because of claims that Jesus really didn't die, but recovered and rolled the stone away, or that the disciples went to the wrong tomb and thus believed that Jesus had been raised from the dead

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