

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 21

Mark 15:22 – 47

Review

- Baptism and Temptation (1:1-13)
- Year-Long Ministry in Judea (John 1:19-4:45)
- Galilean Ministry (1:14-7:23)
- Withdrawal with Disciples into Various Gentile Regions (7:24-8:26)
- The Road to Jerusalem (8:27-10:52)
 - The First Passion Prediction Unit (8:27-9:29)
 - The Second Passion Prediction Unit (9:30-10:31)
 - The Third Passion Prediction Unit (10:32-52)
- The Passion Week (11:1-15:47)
 - The Date of the Triumphal Entry
 - Sunday The Triumphal Entry
 - Monday Cursing the Fig Tree
Driving Out Money Changers from the Temple
 - Tuesday Teaching on Faith and Forgiveness
Jesus' Authority Questioned
Parable of the Vine-growers
Jesus Answers Religious Leaders – Priorities, Resurrection, Great Commandment
Jesus Questions Religious Leaders
Hypocrisy Condemned
The Widow's Mite
The Olivet Discourse – Things to Come
Jewish Leaders Plot to Kill Jesus
Mary Anoints Jesus and Judas Plans to Betray Him
The Passover Celebration
The Lord's Supper
Foretelling Scattering and Peter's Denial
Prayer in Gethsemane
Betrayal
The Second Jewish Trial
Peter's Denials
The Third Jewish Trial
The First Roman Trial
The Third Roman Trial
Jesus Is Mocked and Led to Golgotha
- The Resurrection (16:1-20)

Timeline of the Crucifixion Events

- Jesus led out to Golgotha before 9 AM.
- Simon of Cyrene carries Jesus' cross.
- Women weep for Jesus.
- Jesus arrives at Golgotha.
- Romans attempt to give Jesus a sedative (wine mixed with myrrh).
- Jesus crucified with criminals at 9 AM.
- Inscription placed on cross by Pilate.
- Soldiers cast lots for Jesus' clothing.
- Crowd mocks Jesus.
- Thief asks for remembrance.
- Jesus provides for Mary.
- Darkness covers the land from 12:00 – 3:00 PM.
- Jesus cries out.
- Jesus is given drink.
- Jesus dies.
- Miraculous events when Jesus dies.
- Centurion struck with awe.
- Jesus is pierced.
- Joseph asks for the body of Jesus.
- Jesus placed in the tomb before sunset.

The Crucifixion

²²Then they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull. ²³They tried to give Him wine mixed with myrrh; but He did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified Him, and divided up His garments among themselves, casting lots for them *to decide* what each man should take. ²⁵It was the third hour when they crucified Him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against Him read, "THE KING OF THE JEWS."

²⁷They crucified two robbers with Him, one on His right and one on His left. ²⁸*And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with transgressors."* ²⁹Those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, and saying, "Ha! You who *are going to* destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰save Yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes, were mocking *Him* among themselves and saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. ³²"Let *this* Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!" Those who were crucified with Him were also insulting Him.

- Golgotha – An Aramaic word meaning "Place of a Skull" that Mark translates for his Roman readers. This was a rocky knoll that resembled a skull.
- The word "Calvary" comes from the Latin Vulgate rendering *Calvaria*, a variation of *calva*, "a skull." The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament
- The Roman soldiers either gave a sedative (wine mixed with myrrh) or allowed it to be given to Jesus. This was possibly to decrease the pain of the crucifixion process, but more probable it was to decrease the struggling of the condemned during the crucifixion. Jesus tasted the sedative, but refused it.

³⁴they gave Him wine to drink mixed with gall; and after tasting *it*, He was unwilling to drink. Matt 27:34

- And they crucified Him – Mark's readers were well acquainted with the process of crucifixion so, as with the other gospel writers, he did not elaborate. This occurred at the "third hour" or 9AM according to Jewish rendering.
- The scriptures were fulfilled (Psa 22:18) by the Roman soldiers casting lots for Jesus' garments.

- Judging from nonbiblical descriptions of crucifixion in New Testament times, Jesus was placed on the cross as it lay flat on the ground. First His feet were nailed to the upright beam and then His arms stretched across the horizontal beam and nailed through the wrists just above the hand, allowing a slight bend at the knees when the body was extended. The cross was then picked up and dropped into the hole, causing excruciating pain as the weight of His body pulled at the already torn flesh around the nails. MacArthur's New Testament Commentary: Matthew 24-28
- In contempt for the Jewish religious leaders, Pilate had the inscription “The King of the Jews” placed on the cross.

¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written, “JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS.” ²⁰Therefore many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin *and* in Greek. ²¹So the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews’; but that He said, ‘I am King of the Jews.’” ²²Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” John 19:19-22

- Having Jesus crucified with criminals fulfilled Isa 53:12.
- The verbal abuse and mocking continued while Jesus was on the cross. “The two men crucified with Jesus also joined in reviling Him. But one of them soon stopped and asked Jesus to remember him in His kingdom (Luke 23:39-43).” The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged *there* was hurling abuse at Him, saying, “Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other answered, and rebuking him said, “Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹“And we indeed *are suffering* justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” ⁴³And He said to him, “**Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.**” Luke 23:39-43

The Death of Jesus Christ, the Son of God

³³When the sixth hour came, darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “**ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?**” which is translated, “**MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?**” ³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they *began* saying, “Behold, He is calling for Elijah.” ³⁶Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink, saying, “Let us see whether Elijah will come to take Him down.” ³⁷And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last. ³⁸And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

⁴⁰There were also *some* women looking on from a distance, among whom *were* Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Less and Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹When He was in Galilee, they used to follow Him and minister to Him; and *there were* many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

- Jesus was crucified at 9 AM. From noon until 3 PM there was darkness over the “whole land.” The Greek word means “world.” This was a miraculous event that possibly had world wide impact.
- From Jesus’ statement at the “ninth hour”, this three hour darkness would appear to be the time when Jesus bore the full penalty for our sin – when He was separated from the Father.

He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Cor. 5:21

Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor. Hab 1:13a

- Some Jewish bystanders apparently misunderstood or more likely, as a mockery, deliberately misinterpreted Jesus’ cry as a call to Elijah. Popular Jewish belief held that Elijah came in times of distress to deliver righteous sufferers. The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament
- Wanting to see if Elijah would bring Jesus down, the onlookers sought to prolong His life by giving Him something to drink.

- Jesus had the authority to lay down His life. The crucifixion did not kill Him, it was the vehicle by which He gave up His life.

¹⁷“For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. ¹⁸“No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.” John 10:17-18

- Normally such a person suffered extreme exhaustion for a long period (often two or three days) and then lapsed into a coma before dying. But Jesus was fully conscious to the end; His death came voluntarily and suddenly. The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament

- Jesus’ “loud cry” was recorded in John and Luke:

³⁰Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. John 19:30

⁴⁶And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, “Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.” Having said this, He breathed His last. Luke 23:46

- When Jesus died the veil separating the Holy of Holies where God’s presence abided with the rest of the temple was torn in half. This tearing of the veil “...was a sign that Jesus’ death ended the need for repeated sacrifices for sins, and opened a new and living way of free and direct access to God.” The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament

- At the same time the veil was torn there was a violent earthquake and resurrections of saints who then went into Jerusalem.

^{51b}...and the earth shook and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; ⁵³and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many. Matt 27:51-53

- In contrast to the mockers, this Roman soldier’s declaration along with the torn veil climaxes Mark’s crucifixion account and shows clearly that the way to the Father is open to ALL who will come to Him by faith in His Son – including Gentiles (Romans).

- Jesus’ death:

1. It was demonstrative.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Rom 5:8

2. It was vicarious – Jesus paid the sin price that rightly belongs to each of us.

...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matt 20:28

3. It was redemptive – We were bought from the marketplace of sin and released from its bondage.

And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. Rev 5:9

4. It was reconciliatory – Our sin separated us from God (Isa 59:2). Jesus’ death bridged that gap.

¹⁸Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them,...2 Cor 5:18-19a

5. It was a propitiation – God’s holy wrath for sin has been satisfied.

...and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the* whole world. 1 John 2:2

6. It is the means for forgiveness.

When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, Col 2:13

- There were many who had followed Jesus at the cross to witness the crucifixion:
 - Mary, Jesus' mother.
 - Mary Magdalene whom Jesus had cast out seven demons (Luke 8:2).
 - Mary the mother of James the Less and Joses – the wife of Clopas – mother of one of the twelve.
 - Salome the mother of the sons of Zebedee – James and John.

Jesus Is Buried

⁴²When evening had already come, because it was the preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴Pilate wondered if He was dead by this time, and summoning the centurion, he questioned him as to whether He was already dead. ⁴⁵And ascertaining this from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶Joseph bought a linen cloth, took Him down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the *mother* of Joses were looking on *to see* where He was laid.

- Joseph of Arimathea went to ask Pilate for Jesus' body. Joseph was a wealthy (Matt. 27:57), reputable member of the Sanhedrin and a secret disciple of Jesus (John 19:38). Joseph had not consented to their plan and action (Luke 23:51). He gathered up courage – he was no longer a secret disciple and he would not doubt come under persecution in the years to come.
- Pilate was surprised that Jesus was already dead and asked for confirmation from a centurion.
- Joseph along with another once secret disciple of Jesus, Nicodemus (John 19:39) took Jesus' body and wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid Him in Joseph's tomb.
- The women were looking on and would come back Sunday morning after the Sabbath.