

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Mark 15:6-13**.
- B. The crucifixion of Jesus is the crucible of Xianity. It is the one act that saves everyone from sin, that is, those who come in obedience to X.
- C. One cannot study enough the events and people that surrounded the crucifixion. It should be the most familiar and well known event in the entire Bible.
- D. This lesson is not exhaustive of everything that happened to Jesus during His death, but from Mark's perspective we want to study the greatest event of all history.

I. THE SERVANT IS CONDEMNED (Mk. 15:1-20).

- A. Pilate had no great love for the Jews and was not about to do them any favors. He knew that the Jewish leaders were not interested in seeing justice done; what they really wanted was vengeance (15:10).
- B. Pilate repeatedly stated that he found no fault in Jesus (Jo. 18:38; Lk. 23:14,32; Jn. 19:4; Mt. 27:24). His problem was that he lacked the courage to stand for what he believed.
- C. Then Pilate offered the people a choice--Jesus the Nazarene, or Barabbas, the murderer and insurrectionist--thinking that surely sanity would prevail and they would ask to have Jesus released. But the chief priests had prepared the crowd carefully (15:11), and they asked for Barabbas to be set free and Jesus to be crucified.
- D. Then followed the disgraceful mockery by the soldiers, as they beat Him, spat on Him, and bowed in mock homage. Our Lord quietly suffered and did not fight back, a lesson that Mark's readers would not need to learn as they faced official persecution (1Pet. 2:21-24).
- E. Jesus is condemned unjustly. We are the ones who deserve to be condemned because of sin.

II. THE SERVANT IS CRUCIFIED (Mk. 15:21-41).

- A. The Third Hour.
 - 1. According to the law, the guilty victim had to carry his own cross, or at least the cross beam, to the place of execution, and Jesus was no exception. He left Pilate's hall bearing His cross (Jn. 19:16-17), but He could not continue; so the soldiers "drafted" Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross for Him.
 - 2. *Golgotha* is a Hebrew word that means "skull," though nowhere does the text explain why the place bore that name. None of the gospel writers gives us a description of crucifixion, nor is one necessary. Their aim is not to arouse our pity, but to assure our faith. Many of their readers had probably witnessed crucifixions, so any details would have been unnecessary.
 - 3. The soldiers at the execution were not only doing their duty, but they were also fulfilling prophecy as they gambled for our Lord's garments (Psa. 22:18). The fact that the innocent Son of God was placed between two guilty criminals also fulfilled prophecy (Isa. 53:12).
 - 4. It seems incredible that the religious leaders so hated Jesus that they even went out to Golgotha to mock Him. They mocked Him as Prophet (15:29), as Savior (15:31), and as King (15:32).
- B. The Sixth Hour.

At noon, a miracle darkness came over the land, and all creation sympathized with the Creator as He suffered. This was indeed a miracle and not some natural phenomenon, such as a sand storm or an eclipse. It would not be possible to have an eclipse during the full moon at Passover.
- C. The Ninth Hour.
 - 1. Our Lord made seven statements from the cross, three of them before the darkness came:
 - a. "Father forgive them for they know not what they do" (Lk. 23:34).
 - b. "Today, you shall be with Me in Paradise" (Lk. 23:43).

- c. "Woman behold thy son...Behold thy mother!" (Jn. 19:26,27).
- 2. At the ninth hour, Jesus expressed the agony of His soul when He cried out from the cross:
 - d. "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me?" (15:34).
- 3. Then Jesus said:
 - e. "I thirst" (Jn. 19:28).

And the kind act of the soldier in giving Jesus a sip of vinegar (Psa. 69:21) assisted Him in uttering two more wonderful statements:

 - f. "It is finished!" (Jn. 19:30).
 - g. "Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit" (Lk. 23:46).
- D. Two remarkable events occurred at His death: there was an earthquake (Mt. 27:51), and the veil of the temple was torn in two. The veil had separated man from God, but now, through His death, Jesus had opened for the whole world a "new and living way" (Heb. 10:12-22).

III. **THE SERVANT IS BURIED (Mk. 15:42-47).**

- A. God had a wealthy member of the Sanhedrin, Joseph of Arimathea, ready to take care of the body of Jesus (Mt. 27:57). He was assisted by Nicodemus, also a member of the council (Jn. 19:38-42).
- B. The fact that Jesus was buried is proof that He actually died on the cross, for the Roman officials would not have released the body w/o proof that Jesus was dead. Hence, the reason that Pilate inquired as the fact of whether or not Jesus had died.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The Servant was unjustly condemned because of our sin.
- B. The Servant was crucified in our place--we are the ones that deserve to die.
- C. The Servant was buried in anticipation of the resurrection to come.
- D. Who will have a new life today? Who will admit they have sinned, stand condemned, and need to die. Accept the Savior's death and be forgiven--become a Xian.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.