

Crucifixion and Resurrection

Mark 15 and 16

April 1, 2018

DAY 1: Crucifixion

1. When I was younger, preparing Good Friday messages, the easiest thing to study was the physical suffering involved with crucifixion. But none of the gospel writers record that much about the physical suffering of crucifixion.

Mark 15:20b ... Then they led him out to crucify him. ²¹ A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross.

²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull).

²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.

²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

2. Psalm 22 is a messianic psalm about this very event. Yet, the sense of the psalm also has less to do with the physical suffering, and more emphasis on other types of suffering, both personal, relational, and spiritual. This psalm was written about 1,000 years before Christ's crucifixion.

Psalms 22:6 But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people.

⁷ All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads:

⁸ "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

⁹ Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast.

¹⁰ From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.

¹¹ Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

¹² Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

¹³ Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me.

¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.

¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶ Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet.

¹⁷ I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me.

¹⁸ They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

3. What strikes you from the Psalm 22 passage?

DAY 2: The darkness of sin

1. All around Jesus are snapshots and “videos” of sin, of why Jesus chose to die for mankind.
2. Mark is putting on center stage prime examples of why Jesus is hanging on a cross. All around Jesus are what Proverbs calls mockers, scorners, and know-it-alls.

Mark 15:25 It was the third hour when they crucified him.

²⁶ *The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

²⁷ *They crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.*

²⁹ *Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days,*

³⁰ *come down from the cross and save yourself!"*

³¹ *In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves.*

"He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself!

³² *Let this Christ, this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.*

³³ *At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.*

3. Notice the different groups of people and how they railed on Jesus. Fill in the sin of each of the groups of people from this passage:

a. “Those who passed by” (vv. 29-30)-

b. “The chief priests and teachers of the law” (vv. 31-32)-

c. “Those crucified with him” (vv. 27, 32)

Mark 15:33 At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.

³⁴ *And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"--which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

4. The crucifixion of Jesus began at 9:00 a.m. Mark records that at noon (the sixth hour) darkness covered the land. That darkness continued to cover the land for another three hours, until the ninth hour (3:00 p.m.). What message do you think God was sending by three-hour darkness at noon?

5. Why was Jesus distraught? Was it the physical suffering? Inability to breathe? The loss of so much blood that He was getting cold? The agony of being pinned in place for six hours? It's none of those! Something else is a million times worse!

DAY 3: Resurrection beginnings ...

1. While Jesus was alive there wasn't that much of a movement. Some were attracted to His teaching, some to His miracles, others to His love. But then the crucifixion happened.

Mark 15:37 With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

2. But after the resurrection of Christ, the movement exploded! It moved eastward into Asia, southwest into Africa and northwest into Europe.

3. It's what happened *after* his death that stunned the world, corroborated His life and message, and rocked the world!

4. What followed *Immediately* after His death?

Mark 15:38 The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

³⁹ *And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"*

⁴⁰ *Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.*

⁴¹ *In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.*

⁴² *It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached,*

⁴³ *Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.*

5. The temple curtain being torn in two is the first thing that happened after His death. The curtain was no flimsy piece of cloth, but a thick covering, dividing the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple. It was about sixty feet high, thirty feet wide, and four inches thick. What is the significance of the curtain being torn "from top to bottom"?

6. The significance of the temple being torn in two is that God had opened a way for people to relate directly to God because of the death of Christ and the penalty that was paid for their sins!

7. The next thing Mark records is the testimony of the centurion.

a. What is the centurion's testimony?

b. What things do you think led him to this conclusion?

DAY 4: Resurrection: first eyewitnesses

Mark 15:46 So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

⁴⁷ *Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.*

1. Two women are cited as witnesses of His death and burial in the tomb.

Mark 16:1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.

² *Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb*

³ *and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"*

2. Mark's writing style is "just the facts, ma'am." He's quick and to the point. Yet, in this section of scripture, he elaborates and emphasizes far more than in any other part of the gospel.

3. Nevertheless, you'll notice that there are three different times when Mark mentions three particular women (also in Mark 14:46).

4. Why would he mention these three women, by name? One reason is obvious. Mark's saying, "If any of you have questions about the resurrection go talk to these three!"

Mark 16:4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

Mark 16:6 "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

⁷ *But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"*

5. Sometimes, skeptics try to point out the impossibility of the resurrection. Imagine you were Mark, writing in a time where women were considered just a little better than property.

6. If this was a made-up story, the last thing Mark would have done, in that culture, in that time period would have been to have the first eyewitnesses to the resurrection be three women. The only plausible reason for Mark writing these details was that they occurred. The stone was rolled away, the tomb was empty, and an angel gives the news of resurrection.

7. There is another sign of Christ's divinity: the divine, forgiving love that welcomes betrayers:

Mark 16:7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

8. Imagine what angel could have said. "Go back and tell those no-good, yellow-breasted cowards, those treasonous betrayers that karma is coming for them!" Instead, the very opposite message is sent! "You're invited back. Forgiveness is paid. I look forward to seeing you again!"

DAY 5: Resurrection appearances: the disciples, and others

Luke 24:36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷ *They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.*

³⁸ *He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?"*

³⁹ *Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."*

⁴⁰ *When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.*

⁴¹ *And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"*

⁴² *They gave him a piece of broiled fish,*

⁴³ *and he took it and ate it in their presence.*

⁴⁴ *He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."*

⁴⁵ *Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.*

⁴⁶ *He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,*

1. What do we learn about the resurrected Jesus? Check all that apply:

- a. They could hear Him.
- b. His words were personal and comforting
- c. They still could not wrap their minds around resurrection
- d. They could see Him, and especially His wounded hands and feet.
- e. They could touch Him.

2. The apostle Paul had a lengthy list of those who had seen the resurrected Christ. At least five appearances are mentioned here. Underline every one you see:

1 Corinthians 15:3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

⁴ *that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*

⁵ *and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.*

⁶ *After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.*

⁷ *Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,*

⁸ *and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.*

3. What strikes you from today's verses?