

“The Trial, Crucifixion and Burial of Jesus”

Mark 15:1-47

Introduction

- We are doing a study in the final week of Jesus’ life, the greatest seven day period in human history
 - Where man was redeemed, where our sin was paid for, and where Jesus had victory over death
 - The greatest week ever!
- It started with Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, fulfilling prophecies from Daniel 9 and Zechariah 9
 - The next day after Jesus prayed it in and thought it thru was the cleansing of the temple
 - Then later that day He is examined by the Sanhedrin and the Herodians, the Pharisees and the Sadducees

The Reason being as we have talked about – this was Passover Week in Jerusalem

- and on the 10th day of the month lambs all over the city were to be brought into homes
 - one, so you would fall in love with these perfect lambs so you would realize the severity of your sin
 - but also to examine them to see if they were without spot or blemish
- Jesus’ examination began at the exact same moment as these Passover lambs

Then on the same day that those Passover lambs would be killed for the sins of the people, Jesus, our Passover Lamb, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world would die for you and for me

- As we come to Mark 15, we have come to that day, a day like no other in human history

This momentous day if you are taking notes this morning will be marked by three events as we look at Mark 15

The Trial, Crucifixion and Burial of Jesus – Mark 15

#1 – The Trial of Jesus – Mark 15:1-14

#2 – The Crucifixion of Jesus – Mark 15:15-41

#3 – The Burial of Jesus – Mark 15:42-47

- Let’s look at these one at a time this morning

The Trial, Crucifixion and Burial of Jesus – Mark 15

#1 – The Trial of Jesus – Mark 15:1-14

- as we read in verse 1, this happens early in the morning
 - remember the previous night had started in the upper room where Jesus had had Passover with His disciples
 - took part of that Passover and instituted Communion – saying as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, do it in remembrance of me

After the Passover meal the evening moved on to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus poured out His heart to His father while the disciples were sleeping

- and it was in there in the Garden that Judas led a band of men to arrest Jesus
 - And the first place they took Him after He was arrested was to the house of Caiaphas the High Priest of Israel, where outside Peter was denying he knew the Lord and inside the Jewish leaders were deciding Jesus needed to die
 - The Jewish law was clear that you could not condemn a man to die without the testimony of two or three witnesses
- And so they brought in false witnesses, who couldn’t even agree with each other with their lies

So when the High Priest was losing the moment - he cried out, tell us are you the Messiah, are you God

- and Jesus said, I AM
 - they tore their robes and they condemned Him to death
 - but then, early in the morning, they still had to convince the Roman governor of the region that Jesus was worthy to die

You see the problem comes from the fact that the Jews could not carry out the sentence of execution

- the Romans had taken away that right 30 years before that night
 - And this goes back to an important prophecy from Genesis 49 that all of you Bible students should be aware of

In Genesis chapter 49, Jacob is prophesying over His sons

- and when he comes to Judah, he declares him to be the tribe from which the King would come from
 - He says the scepter will not depart from Judah until Shiloh comes

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes;” – Genesis 49:10

- And the Jewish Talmud, the original interpretation of the Old Testament said this to mean that the Jews would continue to have the authority of capital punishment, the scepter shall remain, in their homeland until Messiah had come

In fact this interpretation was so well understood and taught that when the Jews lost that ability less than 30 years before this event we are reading about tonight in Mark 15, many Rabbis were told from Historians were tearing their robes and wailing because the prophecy had come to pass

But what they didn't realize is when Rome took away their right to capital punishment in their own land, with their own people and that a young boy lived in Nazareth who was the Messiah, the savior of the world

- Well fast forward 30 years and the Jews still don't have the right to capital punishment in their own land
 - And so although they have condemned Jesus to death in their Kangaroo Court the previous night, they still need to convince Pilot, the Roman procurator

We understand from all the gospel accounts put together than the only charge the Jews can bring before Pilot to try and convince him Jesus is worthy of death, is that Jesus claims to be the King of the Jews and therefore is a danger to Rome

- But Pilot sees through this and is not in any hurry to do the Jews a favor
 - But at the same time, we know historically Pilot is in trouble with Rome for the unhappiness of the Jewish people and their frequent uprisings
- And so he can not afford to continue to offend the Jewish people

Pilot who does not want to condemn Jesus, tries one last ditch effort and that is to offer the Jews the release of one prisoner and the choice should have been easy

- Barabbas was a notorious criminal, in others words a Charles Manson of the day
 - do you want me to release to you, this murderer, do you want him free among you or do you want dangerous Jesus, the King of the Jews
 - wouldn't want Him to keep healing people and teaching His disciples to love one another

It seemed an obvious choice, but the people incited by the priests picked Barabbas

- And this Barabbas who had done nothing but earn judgment in his life, was set free while Jesus went off to be condemned
 - A picture really of all of us that morning
 - Barabbas was set free
 - And Jesus was then sent away to be crucified

The Trial, Crucifixion and Burial of Jesus – Mark 15

#1 – The Trial of Jesus – Mark 15:1-14

#2 – The Crucifixion of Jesus – Mark 15:15-41

- Crucifixion could very well be the most horrible way man has come up with to kill his fellow man
 - And Mark's gospel focuses in on 5 aspects of the crucifixion process, each one so important for us to notice

Jesus' Crucifixion

#1 – Began with scourging – verse 15

- The first part of the crucifixion process for many who were condemned to die was a scourging
 - Jesus was beat with a whip made of leather strips with bone and jagged rocks place in it, and they would tie you with arms extended to begin to whip

The reason the Romans did this was basically to solve unsolved crimes

- In the days before CSI Units and DNA, before Emily Andrews was on duty many crimes went unsolved
 - And so they would beat these men condemned to death and ask them to confess any crimes they had done, you are going to die anyway – and a scribe would be by to mark different crimes off the books

And the deal was if you confessed each lash would be easier and easier, but if you would not confess, each lash would be harder and harder

- Normal men even if they had done nothing would begin to make things up to ease the pain of this brutal torture

But we are told in Isaiah 53, that just like a sheep that doesn't say anything when it is being sheared, so the Messiah would say nothing when facing his executioners

- And what that means is with each lash, they hit Jesus harder and harder, trying to break Him
 - But He had nothing to confess, and He would never make something up to get out of pain
 - And so they brutalized Him at the scourging

Jesus' Crucifixion

#1 – Began with scourging – verse 15

#2 – The Crown of Thorns – verses 16-20

- After Jesus was beaten with the flagellum whip, they brought Him into the Praetorium

The Praetorium was a large, usually open air hall in Roman buildings

Picture of the Praetorium

- and in a open outdoor similar to this one the Roman guards began to mock Jesus and hit Him in the face with a rod and spit on Him and most brutal of all, they stuck a crown of thorns on His head, bowing the knee and worshipping this one who was called the King of the Jews

But their choice of a crown of thorns was both brutal and prophetic

- The crown of thorns would have been made from the acacia bush that grows in the area
- **Acacia bush picture**

And as you can see from the photo this is not little garden thorns, but the damage they would have caused as they were stuck into Jesus' head would have been immense

- But it was not just torturous, this choice of a crown of thorns
 - but remember from the book of Genesis, chapter 3 that thorns were part of the curse
 - man was living in total harmony in the Garden of Eden, until they fell
 - and when they did the ground now produced thorns and thistles and man had to work around those to get his food, from the sweat of his brow
- well this part of the curse of sin was born on the head as a crown on the one who did have victory over sin and death

Jesus' Crucifixion

#1 – Began with scourging – verse 15

#2 – The Crown of Thorns – verses 16-20

#3 – Carrying the Cross – verse 21

- After Jesus was beaten, whipped and humiliated, those condemned to die would have to carry the instrument on which they would die, outside the gates of the city
- And this too was prophetic as back in the book of Genesis, in chapter 22, Abraham is told, take your son, your only son, Isaac and offer Him on a mountain that I will show you
 - And so much of Genesis 22 is a picture of the crucifixion
 - Isaac wasn't Abraham's only son – Jesus was the only son
 - The mountain was mount Moriah which would later be renamed Mount Zion, the very place where Jesus was being lead out to be crucified

And Isaac who was in his early thirties when that story took place – please don't think of Isaac as this little boy

- He would have been able to over power his father, but Isaac like Jesus was a willing participant

- And Isaac like Jesus carried the wood that he would be offered on, up to Calvary

Jesus carried His cross for a time, but He was so dehydrated from the loss of blood in His previous beatings, so broken down was He, He could not carry the cross

- so the Romans compelled Simon the Cyrene, probably a large African man that was the standard in that area, to carry the cross for Jesus
 - I bet Simon wanted nothing to do with this outlaw, he didn't want to carry that cross
 - Those Romans that can make people do anything, how dare they ruin my trip to Jerusalem to honor God
 - Who is this criminal?
- But I bet as Simon watched Jesus, he realized Jesus was like no other man he had ever encountered – not reviling back, not flowing with hate, but love
 - And Simon's heart was touched that day
 - We know this is the case because Mark in verse 21 points out that this man was the Father of Alexander and Rufus

Most scholars believe that is included because Alexander and Rufus were important men in the early church

- a reference for that is Romans chapter 16
 - even as Jesus walked to His death, He was changing people lives – there has never been anyone like Jesus

Jesus' Crucifixion

#1 – Began with scourging – verse 15

#2 – The Crown of Thorns – verses 16-20

#3 – Carrying the Cross – verse 21

#4 – Nailed to a Tree – verses 22-34

- They eventually brought Jesus to Golgotha, the place of the skull, or in Latin, Calvary,

Kind of interesting to me that our church is technically called the Place of the skull chapel – don't really know why our symbol is a dove instead of a skull, being a Raiders fan I have asked Pastor Rob to change it, but he said it would scare people

- just kidding, we have never had that conversation

But they bring Jesus to a hill that looked like a skull

- this is why many Bible scholars believe Jesus was not crucified at the place in Jerusalem called the church of Holy Sepulchur, the traditional site

- but actually a site outside of the old gates of the city, known as Gordan's Calvary – **pic of Gordon's Calvary #1**
- And we will put up another pic taken from a little further back so you can see the hill top, where if this is the spot, Jesus would have been crucified
- **Picture of Gordon's Calvary #2**

At the place of the skull, they would have nailed Jesus hands to the cross – now the biblical word for hand was anything from the elbow to the finger tips – most scholars believed they nailed people through the wrists for support causing much more pain than even your hand due to nerves that run through there

- And then they would attach your feet, by placing them one over the other and nailing them to the cross
 - As they would turn you up right, pressures would be applied to your body that made the torture even worse

The pressure would first be on your thighs and most humans can only hold that for a moment

- the pressure goes to your shoulders and they would immediately be dislocated
 - that would put the pressure on the nail in your feet, that would rip through them until it rested on your ankle

And on this bone you would push up your torn open back artificially breathing

- Death normally came by Asphyxiation as you were physically unable to push yourself up one more time and you literally suffocated to death
 - Or it came by exposure, days out in the sun was the norm

But friends as bad as this was, I don't believe the torture of the cross was the worse part for Jesus

- and the reason I believe this is one of the things Jesus said on the cross
 - from the cross Jesus made 7 statements when you piece all the gospel accounts together
 - Mark only records one – but it is very significant

In verse 34 we hear Jesus crying out in terror – “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani” – which is translated, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me”

- It is significant to me – it is the only time we find Jesus crying out in terror in the scriptures
 - He was not worried about disease – He reached out and touched lepers
 - He was not worried about storms – He calmed them with a word
 - He was not worried about armies or death
- But what scared Jesus was being separated from His Father

You see it was at this moment that Jesus endured the full ramifications of our sin, and was made sin for us, and God turned His back on His son, and for the first time in eternity there was separation between the Father and the Son

- And this idea of separation so terrified Jesus He cried out at this moment as never before

Now what challenges me and I hope you as well as we study these thing is Jesus was terrified of that which we give little or no thought to at all

- we are scared of disease
 - and so we carry out portable bottles of Purell hand sanitizer and rub ourselves down – we don't want to get anything
 - We are scared of disease
- We are scared of storms

We are scared of the dark, we are scared of war, we are scared of relationships ending, or losing our jobs

- But the one thing that caused Jesus terror, we have gotten so used to living separated from God, many of us, never give it a second thought
 - We worry about being caught in sin, we worry about getting a disease because we have sinned, but do we fear the void in our heart as sin separates us from God
 - For many of us the honest answer is no

And I really believe that is something we need to pray through, what is wrong with me that I care not at all about the very thing that concerned Jesus most

Jesus' Crucifixion

#1 – Began with scourging – verse 15

#2 – The Crown of Thorns – verses 16-20

#3 – Carrying the Cross – verse 21

#4 – Nailed to a Tree – verses 22-34

#5 - Dying in our place – verses 35-41

As Jesus cried out, they went to get him wine, mixed with myrrh, it was a narcotic normally given to ease the pain of crucifixion

- but Jesus refused, bearing the full brunt of my sin and yours
 - and at about the ninth hour
 - now this would be about 3pm in the afternoon

At the 6th hour, the skies went dark and at about 3pm Jesus breathed His last

- and the people who witnesses this declared truly this Man was the Son of God
 - and God had something to say as well

For Mark's gospel tells us the veil in the temple

- this veil that was 60 feet High, 30 feet wide and 18 inches thick
 - this veil that separated man from God for generations
 - was ripped from the top to the bottom
 - God ripped it in morning, as Jacob did when he heard the false report of Joseph
 - But God also ripped that veil saying to everyone from that day forward
- Your sin is not just covered, your sin by the death of My Son has been taken away
 - And there is nothing anymore that separates Me from you, come on in and enjoy My presence!

The Trial, Crucifixion and Burial of Jesus – Mark 15

#1 – The Trial of Jesus – Mark 15:1-14

#2 – The Crucifixion of Jesus – Mark 15:15-41

#3 – The Burial of Jesus – Mark 15:42-47

- Mark tells us when evening had come
 - Remember the Jews marked their days from sundown to sundown
 - So evening to them wasn't after dark, it was 3pm to 6pm – so this is still Friday

In the three hours following Jesus death, Joseph of Arimathea requested the body of Jesus to burry Him

- Joseph of Arimathea was a rich man and a prominent member of the Sanhedrin, he was one of those guys who did not really follow Jesus openly before His death, but became huge in the early church afterward
 - And Joseph wants to have the body of Jesus buried in his tomb

And this is huge

- number one because it fulfills prophecy
 - In Isaiah 53:9, it speaks of the Messiah and says he will die with the wicked or be appointed to death with the wicked but his tomb will be with the rich
 - And how perfectly Jesus fulfilled that Word – He was assigned to death on the cross, where the worst of the worst would be, but in His death, He was buried with the rich
 - The Word of God is so accurate – imagine trying to figure that out before hand

The second reason Joseph of Arimathea receiving the body of Jesus is huge is not just about prophecy, but we know from Roman law that there is no way they would have released the body of Jesus unless there was proof He was dead

- There are always the theories out there that Jesus didn't really die
 - He swooned on the cross – He fainted, they just thought He was dead, but then when they put Him in that cool tomb, He revived
 - Oh yes – the liberal Christian scholars say, that sounds great
- No way, He was dead or they would not have ever released the body

Now notice in verse 46 what Joseph did

- He took the body of Jesus, wrapped it in fine linen, and then hid Jesus away in the tomb
 - I mention this to you, because some of you will remember when we studied the book of Leviticus
 - But some of you have forgotten, and some of you are just SMO – Sunday Morning Only – and that's okay, we love SMOs and Smores for that matter
- But the problem with being a SMO is you missed out on when we went through the Feasts of Israel

The First Feast was the Passover where a spotless lamb would be examined for four days and then sacrificed for the sins of the family

- and Jesus entered Jerusalem and on the very same day the Passover lambs were being examined, Jesus was being examined by the religious leaders to see if He was really without spot or blemish
 - and at the very same moment, the Passover lambs were being killed, Jesus the lamb of God was being scarified for you and me

You say I know that, I know, but the second feast was called the Feast of Unleavened Bread and it began in the evening of Passover

- it happened between 3-6 in the afternoon, right as the events we are reading happened
 - and what the Jews would do is during the Passover, they would take 3 pieces of Matzah and put them in one bag
 - and then they would pull out the middle piece of Matzah and wrap it in linen and hide it away as the Feast of Unleavened bread began, right at this moment

They would take the middle piece, wrap it in linen and hide it away just as Jesus

- who was God, but God, remember is a Trinity, 3 in one
 - 3 pieces of bread in one bag
 - He's the middle Piece, God the Son, who was pieced and bruised just like that piece of Matzah, was placed in linen and hidden away as the Feast of Unleavened Bread began

And as I told you who attend on Wednesday nights – this middle piece of Matzah, the Jews call the Afikoman

- it is the only Greek Word in the Jewish Passover Feast and it means, "I have come"
 - and Moroccan Jews have a tradition that they take the Afikoman bread back to Morocco with them, because if they are caught in a storm, their tradition says they can throw the Afikoman bread in the water and it will calm the storm – what???

Why – ask the Jews, why do you hide three pieces of Matzah in one bag, what do they represent

- the Priests, the Levites and the Jewish people they will say
 - okay – then why do you break the piece that represents the Levities and wrap it in linen – we don't know
 - Why do you call it a Greek name, by the way Jesus is a Greek name, why do you call it the Afikoman – I have come – we don't know
 - why do the Moroccan Jews think the Afikoman can calm storms – we don't know

I have a suggestion

- could it be that it was all a picture of Jesus, the second part of the trinity, who was broken for my sin and yours, wrapped in a linen cloth on the Feast of Unleavened bread and hidden away until the third day when He would rise again
 - that this bread was a picture of the one who came not only to calm raging storms, but to take away the sins of the world

Could it be that this was all planned out by God

- Jesus was not grounded on the wheels of history, He hadn't lost control, this was all planned
 - Because in eternity past God knew you and I couldn't measure up, that we would sin – and so a plan was hatched for God to become a man, live a sinless life and yet at His trial He was condemned as if He was guilty like me

At His crucifixion He was treated as if He had lived my life, so He could treat you as if you had lived His life

- At His burial His beaten and bruised body was put in the ground just as the scripture foretold

But praise God the story doesn't end there, because three days later as Pastor Rob will cover next week, Jesus will raise from the dead because there has never been anyone like Jesus

- Who was beaten for you and me, who bore our sin to provide a way for us to realize there is no one like Jesus and enter in – the veil was ripped and God was saying – come on in
 - What should our response be to these things – we need to enter in
 - For the first time
 - A new and a fresh