

Study of the Gospel of Mark

Chapter 15 (Part 2)

Background

Jesus has been condemned in a Jewish court and now also by the Romans. He is now delivered to the Roman soldiers to carry out the gruesome task of crucifixion. The Gospel records which describe the crucifixion clearly show that the events of these hours directly fulfilled what God had prophesied through His prophets in the Old Testament. "The Scriptures were fulfilled..." Thanks be to God!

1. Read Mark 15:21. This is an interesting verse. Both Matthew (27:32) and Luke (23:26) also mention that Simon was pulled out of the crowd to bear the cross of Jesus. But only Mark mentions the name of his children. What does this imply? (See also Romans 16:13.)

2. It is interesting to compare the four Gospels and the words that each record which were spoken by Jesus in His final hours. Compare the four accounts and records the words of Jesus recorded by each Gospel.

Matthew 27:32-56

Mark 15:22-41

Luke 23:32-49

John 19:17-37

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3. Read Mark 15:22-32. Mark tells us that wine mixed with myrrh was offered to Jesus. This drink served as a narcotic which may have given some relief from the pain of crucifixion. It seems odd that the Romans would give anything that would ease pain to those they were putting to death. The Jewish Talmud tells us that some of the women of Jerusalem supplied the drink to those who were crucified as a way of keeping the words recorded in Proverbs 31:6-7.

But Jesus refuses to drink what was offered to Him. Why might Jesus have refused this drink which may have eased His pain?

4. Read Mark 15:33-41. The Jewish leaders had asked Jesus for a sign which would prove that He was who He said (Mark 8:11). Here at the cross they mockingly ask for another sign: "Come down from the cross, if you are the Christ!" Jesus refused to give them the first sign, and would not come down from the cross either. But a sign they would receive. What signs did God give to the Jewish leaders which pointed to who Jesus was? Write the reference where you find the sign recorded.

A. _____

B. _____

Other signs can be found in the other Gospel accounts as well. Can you find any more?

C. _____

D. _____

E. _____

5. Read Mark 15:42-47. We are introduced to Joseph of Arimathea, who was a member of the Sanhedrin. Luke tells us that he was on the Council but had not consented to put Jesus to death (23:51). This man, like Nicodemus, had been following the life of Jesus with great interest and wonder, but in secret. After seeing Jesus put to death, both of them come into the open and together take upon themselves the responsibility of burying the body of Jesus. Since they had touched a dead body, they would be unclean for 7 days and unable to celebrate the feast. Compare the other Gospels (Matt. 27:57-61; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42). How are Joseph and Nicodemus described? What does this tell us?

Joseph - _____

Nicodemus - _____

6. The events of the crucifixion were a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Match the fulfillment to the prophecy.

1. Mark 15:23 _____

A. Psalm 22:1

2. Mark 15:24a _____

B. Psalm 22:6-8

3. Mark 15:24b _____

C. Psalm 22:16

4. Mark 15:27 _____

D. Psalm 22:18

5. Mark 15:29-32 _____

E. Psalm 69:21

6. Mark 15:34 _____

F. Isaiah 53:8

7. Mark 15:37 _____

G. Isaiah 53:9

8. Mark 15:46 _____

H. Isaiah 53:12