

Lesson 13 23 October, 2011

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Lesson Scope: *Mark 15:16-16:20*

Lesson Focus

The crucifixion and resurrection were the climax to Jesus' earthly life and ministry. They were essential to His mission of providing salvation.

Pilate delivered Jesus to be crucified because he chose to please the people, even though he knew Jesus was innocent. Jesus was then taken to the hall called Praetorium (Mark 15:15-16), where He was confronted with the "whole band" (perhaps four hundred to six hundred soldiers). They subjected Jesus to all sorts of mockery and torture.

Jesus faced this experience as a man. The ridicule and torments caused great suffering. He also faced this experience as the Son of God. The understanding of man's spiritual need moved Him to compassion. Therefore, He was willing to suffer and die so that we might experience redemption and new life in Him.

This lesson covers the basest act ever committed by man. It is a story that fills our hearts with awe and emotion. Study the other accounts of the crucifixion to fill in additional details. Jesus agreed to the plan of salvation, and He filled His role willingly—not grudgingly or with self-pity. So do not spend an undue amount of emphasis on the possible details of the suffering, simply to elicit or stir emotions.

Focus on the details that prove that Jesus was divine, and show how He has provided salvation.

Through Christ's work on the cross, "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself " A new and living way is now opened for mankind into the presence of God.

Lesson Aim: To see evidences that Jesus truly is the Son of God and the Saviour of the world.

Theme Verse: *Mark 15:39.* And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

Lesson Text

Mocked

Mark 15:17-20: And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head, ¹⁸. And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews! ¹⁹. And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him. ²⁰. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him.

Crucified

Mark 15:21-39: And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross. ²². And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull. ²³. And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not. ²⁴. And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take. ²⁵ And it was the third hour, and they crucified him. ²⁶. And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁷. And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left. ²⁸. And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors. ²⁹. And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, ³⁰. Save thyself, and come down from the cross. ³¹. Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save. ³² Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him. ³³. And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why halt thou forsaken me? ³⁵. And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, he calleth Elias. ³⁶ And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar, and put *it* on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down. ³⁷. And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. ³⁸. And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. ³⁹. And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God...

Mark 15:43: ⁴³. Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate,

and craved the body of Jesus.

Resurrected

Mark 16:1-6: ¹ And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. ² And very early in the morning the first *day* of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. ³ And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? ⁴ And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. ⁵ And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. ⁶ And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

Questions for Study

Mocked

1. List some Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in the lesson text verses.
2. What was the irony in the soldiers' treatment of Jesus?

Crucified

3. In what ways did Jesus express submission in His crucifixion?
4. What is significant about the disposal of Jesus' garments?
5. Did the Father forsake Jesus when He hung suffering on the cross (Mark 15:34)? Explain.
6. What motivated the centurion's declaration in verse 39?
7. Discuss the significance of the rent veil.

Resurrected

8. Why did the women need to "behold the place where they laid him"?
9. What did Jesus accomplish in His resurrection?

Analyzing the Passage

The contemptuous crowd carefully orchestrated their mockery of the King—the purple clothing, the crown, the bowed knee, the salute.

It was according to law that the convicted one carry His cross. The Romans also had the legal right to compel others into service. Jesus, drained by the trial and abuse, was unable to carry the cross; therefore, Simon was drafted to carry it for Him.

Golgotha was the top of the hill where they crucified criminals. Jesus refused to drink the wine and myrrh mixture, which likely would have lessened his excruciating pain. Jesus chose to enter fully into the sufferings on

our behalf.

The King of kings was crucified for being the King of the Jews. The "crime" was posted in three languages so that all who gathered could read it.

The supernatural events (darkness, the rent veil) surrounding His death confirmed Jesus' divinity.

Jesus' cry (Mark 15:34) does not imply the Father's disfavor or inattention. It revealed His deep anguish from the weight of bearing our sins (I Peter 2:24) and the intense physical abuse. God allowed the enemy to do his worst.

Principles and Applications

Mocked

1. Jesus endured ridicule and mockery (Mark 15:17-19). How carefully the crowd outfitted Jesus as a king with the purple, the crown, and the reed! How cruel was their intent—the thorns, the smiting, and the spitting! Truly "He is despised and rejected of men" (Isaiah 53:3). Is our practice more than external ritual? If it is not the result of spiritual experience, then we, like this wicked crowd of soldiers, "put him to an open shame" (Hebrews 6:6).

2. Jesus was led as a lamb to the slaughter (Mark 15:20). He had at His disposal the power of heaven for the asking. Yet "how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled?" (Matthew 26:53-54). So He allowed His cruel captors to lead Him to Calvary. His actions were consistent with His teaching to "resist not evil" (Matthew 5:39).

Crucified

3. Jesus was willing to suffer, "the just for the unjust" (Mark 15:23). Not only did He suffer for others' sin, but He also entered the experience without ignoring or softening the reality of the cup.

The cross will always be an offense to the natural man. We dare not compromise in living out Biblical truth or in presenting it to others. Rather, let us follow Jesus' example and learn to know the fellowship of His sufferings (Philippians 3:10).

4. Jesus' garments were disposed of according to Old Testament prophecies (Mark 15:24). "They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture" (Psalm 22:18). Although the evil one was intent on destroying Jesus, circumstances were still under the Father's control. By fulfilling prophecy, wicked men were simply verifying the identity of God's Son.

5. Jesus was clearly "numbered with the transgressors" (Mark 15:27-28).

Crucifixion was the punishment for the worst of criminals. Jesus hung on His cross between two others, who were crucified justly. This too was foretold by Isaiah (53:12).

6. Jesus' suffering and death was the only means of saving humanity (Mark 15:29-31). His persecutors claimed that He ought to deliver Himself to prove His merits. Jesus knew that delivering Himself would leave mankind without hope. No one else could provide salvation for man. Jesus chose to save the world rather than Himself.

7. Jesus faced the cross alone (Mark 15:33-34). Gone were His disciples. Gone was the light from the earth. God "stepped back," and Jesus faced His responsibility "by His own blood" to enter "into the holy place" and obtain "eternal redemption for us" (Hebrews 9:12).

8. Jesus gave His life for man's redemption (Mark 15:37). Jesus cried with a loud voice. This fact tells us that He did not die because His strength ebbed to the point of death. The centurion understood the miraculous nature of this act. Truly, as Jesus had previously told His disciples, "No man taketh [my life] from me, but I lay it down of myself (John 10:18).

9. Jesus' death opened up the "new and living way" to God (Mark 15:38). Only a divine act could have rent the veil at that instant and in that way. This revealed that access to God was now open to all. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace."

10. Jesus made His grave with the rich in His death (Mark 15:43). Joseph, a wealthy man of Arimathaea (Matthew 27:57), did not consent to the Jewish council's verdict (Luke 23:51). After Jesus died, he overcame his fear (John 19:38) and asked Pilate for Jesus' body. He prepared the body for burial and placed it in his own rock-hewn sepulcher.

Resurrected

11. The empty tomb testifies that Jesus is the only Saviour of the world (Mark 16:4-6). It is the resurrection that validates the claims Jesus made. Others have made great claims of receiving revelations from God and have become powerful leaders of religion. Only true Christians follow a Leader who lives today. Jesus was "raised again for our justification" (Romans 4:25) and is now interceding for His followers.

Important Teachings

1. Jesus endured ridicule and mockery (Mark 15:17-19).
2. Jesus was led as a lamb to the slaughter (Mark 15:20).
3. Jesus was willing to suffer, "the just for the unjust" (Mark 15:23).
4. Jesus' garments were disposed of according to Old Testament prophecies

(Mark 15:24).

5. Jesus was clearly "numbered with the transgressors" (Mark 15:27-28).
6. Jesus' suffering and death was the only means of saving humanity (Mark 15:29-31).
7. Jesus faced the cross alone (Mark 15:33-34).
8. Jesus gave His life for man's redemption (Mark 15:37).
9. Jesus' death opened up the "new and living way" to God (Mark 15:38).
10. Jesus made His grave with the rich in His death (Mark 15:43).
11. The empty tomb testifies that Jesus is the only Saviour of the world (Mark 16:4-6).
12. Jesus was clearly identified as the "King of the Jews" (Mark 15:26).

Answers to Questions

1. List some Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in the lesson text verses.
The dividing of Jesus' garments by lot (Mark 15:24) fulfilled Psalm 22:18. The mockery He endured on the cross (Mark 15:29-31) was foretold in Psalm 22:7, 8. Isaiah 53:12 notes that He would be numbered with the transgressors (Mark 15:28). Isaiah 53:9 predicted His burial with the rich (Mark 15:43). Jesus resurrection (Mark 16:6) was foretold in Psalm 16:10.
2. What was the irony in the soldiers' treatment of Jesus?
The crowd of soldiers was careful to set Jesus up as "king" in all the details—robe, crown, reed (scepter), mock salutes, and worship. Of course, to this Roman crowd the idea of a Jewish king was laughable. However, the fact was that indeed, here was the King of the Jews! He was not only the King of the Jews but also the King of kings and Lord of lords. Everyone in this crowd will stand before Him one day for judgment.
3. In what ways did Jesus express submission in His crucifixion? He was willing to suffer; He refused the wine and myrrh mixture that would have lessened the pain. All the power of heaven was at His command; yet He refused to defend Himself or to retaliate.
4. What is significant about the disposal of Jesus' garments? This was a minor detail of prophecy that was fulfilled literally for our benefit.
5. Did the Father forsake Jesus when He hung suffering on the cross (Mark 15:34)? Explain.
No, the plan of salvation was designed before the Creation. God was not limited in this situation. God knew exactly how this would unfold. However, God did need to permit the powers of darkness to perform their vile act.
6. What motivated the centurion's declaration in verse 39?

The centurion knew that usually one who was crucified would be very weak before dying. Jesus cried out with strength and then died. This was evidence that giving His life was a supernatural, planned act.

7. Discuss the significance of the rent veil.

The veil separated the holy place from the most holy place. Once a year the high priest would enter to meet with God for the people. Now, the access to God has been opened up. All can approach the throne of grace at any time. Only Jesus' death could accomplish this marvelous provision for sinful man.

8. Why did the women need to "behold the place where they laid him"? Seeing Jesus' grave clothes lying as He had left them helped them believe what seemed impossible. Jesus was indeed risen!

9. What did Jesus accomplish in His resurrection?

The curse of death imposed by Adam's sin in the Garden was now lifted for all who believe. The empty tomb validates Jesus' claims of who He is. It means that He has power over death and has provided eternal life for us. It testifies that indeed Jesus is the Saviour of the world.

Summarizing the Lesson

"Thou shall bruise his heel" was told to Satan near the beginning of time. Jesus willingly gave Himself over to this crucifixion because He loved the world and desired to fulfill the will of His Father. God allowed evil men to capture, abuse, humiliate, and kill His Son.

"It shall bruise thy head." This too was told to Satan. "Had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory" (1 Corinthians 2:8).

The death and resurrection of Jesus clearly show that He is all that He claimed to be. In response, we should accept the provision He has made for our souls and spread the good news everywhere.

Research Guide

1. Read parallel accounts in the other Gospels.
2. Read Messianic prophecies—Psalms 22 and 110, Isaiah 53, and others.