

COMMENTARY

GOSPEL OF MARK
Chapter 15

vs. 1-15:

Early in the morning the Sanhedrin finally reached a decision as to how they would proceed. They took Jesus bound, to Pilate. They made the charge that Jesus was claiming to be the King of the Jews and that He would lead a revolt against Rome (then Roman law would also decide to put Jesus to death). Pilate asked if Jesus was the king of the Jews and Jesus replied that He was.

The chief priests continued with their accusations, but Jesus remained silent, much to the amazement of Pilate. Pilate customarily released one of the Jewish prisoners during the Passover (this helped keep peace and develop tolerable relations between the Jews and Rome). Pilate asks the crowd if they would like him to release Jesus (trying to save one that he realized had been arrested out of the chief priests envy). The people asked for Barabbas (admurderer who wanted to see the overthrow of Rome). Pilate then asked what they wanted done with Jesus and the people shouted to crucify Jesus (crucifixion was a common form for executions by the Romans).

Not wanting to upset the crowd, especially with so many in the area during the feast, Pilate accomodates the people.

vs. 16-20:

The soldiers then tookd Jesus away and began to taunt him. Dressing him as a king and then striking him again and again and mocking him. Again, Jesus simply endured it for our sake.

vs. 21-32:

During the processional out to the scene of execution, Simon of Cyrene was called upon to carry the cross of Jesus. They arrived outside the city to a place called Golgotha (place of the skull; a description of the appearance of the hill). They offered him a mixture to help alleviate the pain, but he refused it. They crucified, and as He hung there, they dvided up His clothes, casting lots to see who would get what.

Jesus was crucified about 9:00 a.m. The charge of being the King of the Jews was placed above him for all to read. As He hung there, people insulted and mocked Him, calling for Him to come down off the cross (He could have, but elected to remain there so that we would have the opportunity to have our sins forgiven).

vs. 33-41:

From noon until 3:00 p.m. darkness covered the land. At 3:00 p.m., Jesus called out asking why God had turned away from Him (fulfilment of prophecy--Psalm 22:1). Some misinterpreted His wods thinking that He was calling for Elijah. Again they offered Jesus some fluid and then Jesus died.

At the moment of His death, the curtain of the temple (separating man from the presence of God) was ripped from the top to bottom by God (signifying that because of Jesus' death, man could now enter into God's presence). A Roman centurion having seen how Jesus conducted Himself, confessed that surely Jesus was the Son of God.

Many of the women that had followed Jesus over the past few years were there and witnessed His death.

vs. 42-47:

As the Sabbath was quickly approaching (sundown on Friday until sundown on Saturday), Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Sanhedrin, asked for the body of Jesus from Pilate. He then hastily prepared the body for burial and placed it in a stone tomb and sealed it with a large stone.

Two of the women (Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus) witnessed the burial.

STUDY GUIDE

Mark 15

1. What question did Pilate first ask Jesus?
2. What amazed Pilate about Jesus?
3. Why did the chief priests turn Jesus over to Pilate?
4. What did the people want done with Jesus?
5. How did the soldiers mock Jesus?
6. Where was Jesus crucified?
7. What was the charge against Jesus?
8. Who insulted and mocked Jesus?
9. What happened from the 6th hours until the 9th hour?
10. What happened the moment Jesus died?
11. Who asked for the body of Jesus?
12. What did he do with the body?

BONUS:

1. How can Christians "amaze" the world?
2. What do we learn from Jesus about handling persecution?
3. What is your impression of Joseph of Arimathea? What type of person would remind you of him today?