

Jesus' Crucifixion

Mark 15:16-39

Main Themes:

1. Jesus was mocked and made fun of because they did not believe in His love for sinners.
2. Simon the Cyrenian was called upon to carry Jesus' cross as a sign to us that we are called to take up our cross and follow Jesus.
3. Jesus was "numbered with the transgressors" because He took our sin upon Himself.
4. Jesus was punished for our sins by being forsaken by the Father.
5. Jesus showed Himself to be the true King of the Jews (The Christ), the Savior of sinners, not by coming down from the cross but by willingly dying for our sins.
6. The veil of the temple was torn in two as a sign that the sin that separated us from God was taken away by Jesus' suffering and death for us.
7. Because Jesus faithfully died for our sins, the centurion rightly confessed, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!"

Questions:

1. What is the Praetorium? Pontius Pilate's headquarters.
2. How did the soldiers and others show that they did not believe that Jesus was the King of the Jews? They mocked Jesus, made fun of Him, hit Him, put a purple robe on Him, and placed a crown of thorns on His head.
3. Who was made to carry Jesus' cross, and what does this teach us? Simon a Cyrenian. We are called to take up our cross and follow Jesus' by faith in Him.
4. Where was Jesus crucified, and what does this show us? At Golgotha, the Place of a Skull, because Jesus (the Seed of the Woman) would crush the serpent's head according to the first promise of the Gospel. See Genesis 3:15
5. What was written on the sign above Jesus and what does it mean? "The King of the Jews"—Jesus is the Christ, the promised Savior and the Son of God, who came to die for the sins of the whole world.
6. Why was Jesus crucified between two robbers and what does it mean? To fulfill the Scriptures that "He was numbered with the transgressors" (see Isaiah 53:12). It teaches us that Jesus took the sins of the whole world upon Himself.
7. How did they make fun of Jesus as He hung on the cross and what does it mean? They said, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself." They believed that if Jesus really were the King of the Jews and the Son of God that He would save Himself.
8. How did Jesus prove that He really was the Savior? Jesus saved us from our sins, not by coming down from the cross, but by dying for our sins according to the Scriptures.
9. What statement of Jesus did the passersby remind Jesus of? "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"
10. What was Jesus predicting when He talked about the temple? He was talking about the temple of His own body, which would die and rise from the dead the third day according to the Scriptures. See John 2:19-22
11. What time are the sixth and the ninth hours, and what did the darkness signify? 12 noon to 3pm. The darkness signified sin, death, and the judgement of hell that we all deserve.
12. What is the meaning of Jesus' words, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" and where did these words come from? Jesus was praying Psalm 22 from the cross. Jesus' words in this prayer show us that He really did suffer God's wrath and punishment for the world's sin.
13. What happened at the temple when Jesus died and what does it mean? The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, signifying that the sin that had separated us from God had been taken away by His suffering and death on the cross.
14. What did the centurion rightly confess after Jesus had died? "Truly this Man was the Son of God."

Prayer: O Lord Jesus, our merciful Savior, we give thanks to You that You loved us so much that You were willing to take our sins upon Yourself and to suffer and die for us upon the cross. Help us every day to take up our cross and follow You, to confess our sins and trust in You for forgiveness, to love You with all our heart and to love others as You have loved us, for You truly are the Son of God and the Savior of the whole world, and You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.