

MARK 15:21-41

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. Who carries the cross for Jesus? How is he drafted into service?
2. Where is Jesus taken? What is the translation of the word "Golgotha"?
3. What is done to Jesus at Golgotha?
4. What time is Jesus crucified? What is the written charge against Him? Who is he crucified with?
5. How is Jesus treated while on the cross? Who are the different people who abuse Jesus verbally while he is on the cross?
6. What does Jesus do and say in this section?
7. What is the response and action of the different people mentioned in this section?
8. What happened when Jesus died?
9. Look up the following verses and make observations: Amos 8:9; Psalm 22:1; Psalm 69:20-21; Psalm 38:11.?

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. What impact do you think that this event had on Simon of Cyrene? We are told here that he is the father of Alexander and Rufus. Remember, Mark was written to Roman Christians. Look up Romans 16:13. Could this be the same Rufus? If so, what does this tell you about the impact this event had on Simon and upon his family?
2. Look at verse 23. Myrrh was a narcotic. This mixture was generally given by the women to men who were being crucified to decrease the sensitivity to pain. Look up Proverbs 31:6, 7. Why would Jesus refuse this?
3. Look up the following verses and comment on their significance to this passage/event: Psalm 109:24-25; Deuteronomy 21:22-23; Psalm 22:7-8, 16-18; Isaiah 53:12.
4. What is it that the people totally misunderstand about Jesus signified by their comments about the temple, saving yourself and the placard carried before him and hung above him on the cross that said: "King of the Jews"?
5. Were the chief priests and scribes honest in their criticism? Would they have believed if he had come down from the cross? Did they believe when he rose from the dead? Look up Luke 16:19-31?
6. Explain verse 34. In what sense had God forsaken Jesus and why? Look up Habakkuk 1:13.
7. What aspect of the crucifixion was more difficult for Jesus, the physical pain or the spiritual separation?
8. What is the significance of the veil of the temple being torn? (Look up Exodus 26:31-35; Ephesians 2:13ff., Hebrews 10:19ff). What are we given access to through the death of Jesus?
9. What is significant about the Roman Centurions statement of faith in verse 39? Remember, Mark is writing to Roman Christians and seekers.
10. Is there any significance to Mark mentioning the women in verses 40-41?

APPLICATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME/US?

1. What impact has your faith had on your children? Your family? Others who have come in contact with you?
2. What effect does the suffering and death of Jesus have upon you? How does it make you feel?
3. Jesus was numbered with the transgressors. This is a statement with great significance in that He was not afraid to be associated with us and suffer on our behalf. How does the death of Jesus affect the way you live your life?
4. How difficult is it for you to fathom the cross? How could a loving God abandon his obedient son? And for my sins? What does this communicate to you about your value to God?
5. Where would you be standing while the crucifixion was occurring? Would you be handing Jesus some comfort or relief? Hiding in doubt? Strong in faith? Standing afar off, observing?

ACTION PLAN

Spend time personally and with others in coming up with an action plan inspired by your study. What in this passage compels you to desire a change, to move to action, to become more like Jesus? It could be a change in thinking, behavior, character. It could be internal or external. It could be personal or relational. Just don't leave studying the Bible as simply an intellectual exercise.