

# THE GOSPEL OF MARK

"HE CAME TO SERVE, NOT TO BE SERVED..."

## Mark 15:1-15

15 Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So, they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup> “Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate. “You have said so,” Jesus replied. <sup>3</sup> The chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup> So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.” <sup>5</sup> But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. <sup>6</sup> Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. <sup>7</sup> A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. <sup>8</sup> The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. <sup>9</sup> “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, <sup>10</sup> knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. <sup>11</sup> But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. <sup>12</sup> “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. <sup>13</sup> “Crucify him!” they shouted. <sup>14</sup> “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” <sup>15</sup> Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified.

1. Why might the Jewish leaders have presented Jesus as the “King of the Jews” as Jesus’s charge before Pilate?
2. Read Isaiah 53:7. How does Jesus’s response in 15:5 show a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy?
3. Using your favorite Bible study tool, look up the meaning of Barabbas’s name. <https://biblehub.com/topical/b/barabbas.htm>
4. Use a Bible dictionary to define *flogged*.  
<https://biblehub.com/topical/f/flog.htm>
5. Pause to think about what Jesus endured on your behalf. Offer a short prayer of gratitude for His great love and His willing submission.

## Mark 15:16-32

### **The Soldiers Mock Jesus**

<sup>16</sup> The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. <sup>17</sup> They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. <sup>18</sup> And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” <sup>19</sup> Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. <sup>20</sup> And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

### **The Crucifixion of Jesus**

<sup>21</sup> A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. <sup>22</sup> They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). <sup>23</sup> Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup> And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. <sup>25</sup> It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup> The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the jews. <sup>27</sup> They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>[28]</sup> <sup>29</sup> Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, <sup>30</sup> come down from the cross and save yourself!” <sup>31</sup> In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! <sup>32</sup> Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

- In 15:1-15, Pilate wanted to release Jesus. The governor had found no fault in Him, but the crowds wanted to release the criminal Barrabas, and Jesus was sentenced to death by crucifixion. Meanwhile, a battalion of Roman soldiers-six hundred-men were called to secure the palace. Rome was determined that no “**King of the Jews**” would overthrow their government.
- The Messiah, who had the power to silence the seas and the authority to command all demons, willingly remained in custody. They mocked and mistreated Him, and the cruelty of their actions fully displayed that our Suffering Savior was willing to endure in obedience to the Father and for the sake of the lost.
- Review **Mark 15:17-19**. Purple was a kingly color, and the soldiers mockingly put this robe on Jesus Christ because He had claimed to be the King of the Jews. Of course, in reality He is much more than that—He is the “**King of kings, and Lord of lords**” (1 Timothy 6:14-15; Revelation 19:16).
- The crown of thorns was a deliberate attempt to humiliate Jesus and mock His claim to kingship. The thorns, a symbol of suffering and pain, were a visual representation of the consequences of sin and the price Jesus paid for the sins of humanity.



1. **Read Mark 8:34-38 and Galatians 2:20. What does it mean that you are crucified with Christ?**
  2. **How have you chosen to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus?**
  3. **Why didn't Jesus drink the wine and myrrh offered to Him?**
    - A. He wasn't thirsty
    - B. He knew He was going to die soon, and hydration didn't seem important
    - C. He chose to face what was before Him with a clear mind
  4. **Use a Bible dictionary to define *crucifixion*. <https://biblehub.com/topical/c/crucifixion.htm>**
- Although many people had died on that same tree before Him, and many more would come after Him, some of them perhaps innocent of the crimes they had been accused of-Jesus was the only guiltless man who has ever lived and died. In His final hours, Jesus was mocked, accused, and doubted. Yet His heart remained steadfast. “For the joy set before Him he endured the cross” (**Hebrews 12:2**).

## Mark 15:33-47

### The Death of Jesus

<sup>33</sup> At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup> And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”). <sup>35</sup> When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.” <sup>36</sup> Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said. <sup>37</sup> With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. <sup>38</sup> The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!” <sup>40</sup> Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. <sup>41</sup> In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

### The Burial of Jesus

<sup>42</sup> It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So, as evening approached, <sup>43</sup> Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. <sup>44</sup> Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. <sup>45</sup> When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. <sup>46</sup> So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. <sup>47</sup> Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

- While the Servant Savior hung suffering on the cross, the whole land grew dark for three hours-from noon until 3:00 PM. It's as if creation was groaning alongside its Creator. The lack of light wasn't coincidental, though many in history have tried to say that it was.
  - While some scholars suggest a possible explanation could be a solar eclipse, others argue it's a supernatural event or a literary creation, not necessarily a natural one. It's important to note that the crucifixion took place during the Passover, which is observed during a full moon. This makes a solar eclipse less likely because solar eclipses happen during a new moon when the moon is between the Earth and the Sun. This darkness is often interpreted as a sign of God's judgment or mourning.
  - At 3:00 PM, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, *“Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?”* Some people in the crowd misunderstood what He was saying and used it as fuel for their continual mocking.
1. Who did they think Jesus was crying out to and why?
  2. Read **Psalm 22**. Using a Bible study tool, describe the significance of Jesus's words in **15:34**.
  3. Review **15:38**. What took place as Jesus took His last breath? What is the significance of this major change in the temple? Read **Hebrews 10:19-20** for additional insight.
  4. Read **Hebrews 4:14-5:10**. List three things Jesus did in this passage that are most meaningful to you right now.
  5. Read **Isaiah 53:9**. What prophetic fulfillment occurred as Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus's body to be buried?