CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Mark Chapter 15 —

The Trial, Crucifixion, and Burial of the King

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Mark Chapter 15 tells the most important day in history.

The day Jesus died.

It begins early in the morning, when the council hands Jesus over to Pilate, the Roman governor.

Pilate asks, **"Are You the King of the Jews?"**

That title appears again and again in this chapter.

The crowd chooses a murderer named Barabbas instead of Jesus.

The soldiers mock Him with a purple robe and a crown of thorns.

He is crucified between two criminals.

People pass by and insult Him.

Darkness covers the land.

Jesus cries out, **"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"**

He breathes His last.

The temple curtain is torn from top to bottom.

And a Roman soldier says, **"Surely this man was the Son of God!"**

Faithful women watch.

And a council member named Joseph buries Jesus in a tomb.

Throughout the chapter, Jesus is mocked as a king.

But in truth, He is the King, giving His life for His people.

A word of care: Mark shows that Jewish leaders, a crowd, and Roman rulers and soldiers all played a part.

Scripture teaches that Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, and that He laid down His life willingly.

No people group should ever be blamed for His death.

The chapter moves through eight movements:

- Jesus Before Pilate (verses 1–5).
- The Crowd Chooses Barabbas (verses 6–15).
- The Soldiers Mock Jesus (verses 16–20).

- The Crucifixion of Jesus (verses 21–28).
- Mocked on the Cross (verses 29–32).
- The Death of Jesus (verses 33–39).
- The Women at the Cross (verses 40–41).
- The Burial of Jesus (verses 42–47).

The central truth of Mark 15 is:

Jesus, the true King, was rejected, mocked, crucified, and forsaken in our place, and through His death the way to God was opened, so that even a Roman soldier confessed Him as the Son of God.

I. HANDED OVER TO PILATE

Mark 15:1 — Early in the Morning

"Early in the morning, the chief priests, elders, and teachers of the law met together, and they bound Jesus and handed Him over to Pilate."

"Early in the morning."

The council met again at dawn to make their decision official.

"They bound Jesus."

The One who sets captives free was tied up like a prisoner.

"And handed Him over to Pilate."

Pilate was the Roman governor of Judea.

Only Rome had the power to carry out the death penalty.

So the council needed Pilate's approval.

Cross References

Matthew 27:2

> They tied Him up, led Him away, and handed Him over to Pilate, the governor.

Luke 23:1

> Then the whole group stood up and led Jesus to Pilate.

John 18:28

> Early in the morning they led Jesus from Caiaphas' house to the governor's palace.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus allowed Himself to be bound so that we could be set free.

Key Truth

The One who holds the universe allowed Himself to be tied with ropes.

II. ARE YOU THE KING?

Mark 15:2 — You Have Said So

“Pilate asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus replied, “You have said so.””

“Are You the King of the Jews?”

Pilate's question was political.

A king could be seen as a threat to Rome.

“You have said so.”

Jesus did not deny it.

But He answered carefully.

He was a King, but not the kind Pilate feared.

His kingdom was not of this world.

Cross References

Matthew 27:11

> Jesus stood before the governor, who asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You have said it.”

Luke 23:3

> Pilate asked Jesus, “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Yes, it is as you say.”

John 18:33

> Pilate went back into the palace, called Jesus, and asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is the true King, though His kingdom is not of this world.

Key Truth

The prisoner standing before Pilate was the King of kings.

III. MANY ACCUSATIONS

Mark 15:3 — The Chief Priests Accused Him

“The chief priests accused Him of many things.”

The leaders piled up charges.

Luke tells us they claimed He stirred up the people and opposed paying taxes to Caesar.

Neither was true.

But they wanted Pilate to see Him as a political threat.

Cross References

Matthew 27:12

> When the leading priests and older leaders accused Him, He said nothing.

Luke 23:2

> They began to accuse Him: “We found this man leading our people the wrong way, telling them not to pay taxes to Caesar, and saying He is the Christ, a king.”

Isaiah 53:7

> He was mistreated and punished, but He did not say a word.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus endured false accusations without defending Himself.

Key Truth

Lies piled up, but Jesus stood in silent truth.

IV. AREN'T YOU GOING TO ANSWER?

Mark 15:4 — Pilate Asks Again

“Again Pilate asked, “Aren't You going to answer? See how many things they accuse You of.””

Pilate was puzzled.

Most accused people defended themselves loudly.

But Jesus said nothing.

Pilate wanted Him to speak.

Cross References

Matthew 27:13

> So Pilate said to Jesus, “Don't You hear them accusing You of all these things?”

Isaiah 53:7

> Like a lamb led to be killed, He did not open His mouth.

John 19:10

> Pilate said, “Will You not speak to me? Don't You know I have power to set You free or to crucify You?”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' silence was strength, not weakness.

Key Truth

Jesus did not need to argue; the truth was on His side.

V. PILATE WAS AMAZED

Mark 15:5 — No Reply

“But Jesus made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.”

“But Jesus made no reply.”

Isaiah 53 was being fulfilled.

The Servant was like a lamb before its shearers.

“And Pilate was amazed.”

Pilate had never seen a prisoner like this.

Calm.

Silent.

Unafraid.

Cross References

Matthew 27:14

> But Jesus did not answer even one charge, so the governor was very surprised.

Isaiah 53:7

> He was silent like a sheep before its shearers.

John 19:9

> Pilate went back into the palace and asked Jesus, “Where do You come from?” But Jesus gave him no answer.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' calm silence revealed a peace no accuser could shake.

Key Truth

The judge was amazed by the prisoner.

VI. A CUSTOM AT THE FESTIVAL

Mark 15:6 — One Prisoner Released

“It was Pilate's custom at the festival to release one prisoner chosen by the people.”

Each Passover, Pilate released one prisoner.

It was a way to gain favor with the people.

Passover celebrated freedom from slavery.

This custom fit that theme.

Cross References

Matthew 27:15

> Every year at the Passover Feast, the governor would free one prisoner whom the people chose.

Luke 23:17

> Pilate had to release one prisoner to them at the feast.

John 18:39

> It is your custom that I free one prisoner for you at Passover.

Spiritual Principle

God uses even human customs to accomplish His purposes.

Key Truth

At the feast of freedom, the people were offered a choice.

VII. BARABBAS

Mark 15:7 — A Rebel and Murderer

“A man called Barabbas was in prison with rebels who had committed murder during an uprising.”

“A man called Barabbas.”

His name means **“son of the father.”**

Interesting, since Jesus is the true Son of the Father.

“In prison with rebels who had committed murder during an uprising.”

Barabbas was a violent rebel.

He was guilty.

He deserved death.

Cross References

Matthew 27:16

> At that time there was a well-known prisoner named Barabbas.

Luke 23:19

> Barabbas was in prison because of a riot in the city and for murder.

John 18:40

> Barabbas was a robber.

Spiritual Principle

Barabbas pictures every sinner who deserves judgment.

Key Truth

The guilty “son of the father” stood beside the innocent Son of the Father.

VIII. THE CROWD CAME

Mark 15:8 — Asking for the Custom

“The crowd came and asked Pilate to do what he usually did.”

A crowd gathered at Pilate's palace.

They asked for the yearly release.

This was probably a different crowd from those who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem.

Many were likely gathered by the leaders.

Cross References

Matthew 27:15

> The governor would release one prisoner the crowd wanted.

Luke 23:17

> Pilate was supposed to free one prisoner at the feast.

John 18:39

> You have a custom that I release someone at Passover.

Spiritual Principle

Crowds can be easily influenced for good or for evil.

Key Truth

A crowd is not always right.

IX. THE KING OF THE JEWS?

Mark 15:9 — Pilate's Offer

““Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” Pilate asked.”

Pilate offered to release Jesus.

He probably thought the people would choose Jesus.

He used the title **“King of the Jews.”**

Perhaps to mock the leaders.

Perhaps because he saw Jesus was innocent.

Cross References

Matthew 27:17

> Pilate asked the crowd, “Whom do you want me to set free: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Christ?”

John 18:39

> Do you want me to free the King of the Jews?

Luke 23:20

Pilate wanted to let Jesus go, so he spoke to them again.

Spiritual Principle

Even those who know the truth can fail to act on it.

Key Truth

Pilate knew Jesus was innocent but lacked the courage to free Him.

X. OUT OF ENVY

Mark 15:10 — Pilate Knew

“He knew it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over.”

“He knew.”

Pilate saw through the leaders.

“It was out of envy.”

They were jealous of Jesus.

Jealous of His popularity.

Jealous of His authority.

Envy is a powerful and destructive sin.

Joseph's brothers sold him out of envy.

The leaders handed Jesus over for the same reason.

Cross References

Matthew 27:18

Pilate knew they had handed Jesus over because they were jealous.

Genesis 37:11

Joseph's brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept thinking about what he said.

Psalm 69:4

> Those who hate me for no reason are more than the hairs on my head.

Spiritual Principle

Envy can lead to terrible evil.

Spiritual Warning

Envy can poison even religious hearts.

XI. STIRRING UP THE CROWD

Mark 15:11 — Release Barabbas

“But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.”

The leaders worked the crowd.

They persuaded them to choose Barabbas.

A murderer instead of the Giver of life.

Peter later said, **“You asked for a murderer to be released to you.”**

Humanity, in every generation, chooses sin over the Savior.

Cross References

Matthew 27:20

> But the leading priests and older leaders convinced the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be freed and for Jesus to be killed.

Luke 23:18

> But all the people shouted together, “Take this man away! Release Barabbas to us!”

Acts 3:14

> You turned away the One who was holy and good, and you asked to have a killer released to you.

Spiritual Principle

People often choose what destroys over the One who saves.

Key Truth

The choice between Barabbas and Jesus is the choice every heart must make.

XII. WHAT SHALL I DO WITH HIM?

Mark 15:12 — Pilate's Question

“Pilate asked, “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the King of the Jews?””

This is the question every person must answer.

What shall I do with Jesus?

Pilate tried to give the question to the crowd.

But it was his decision.

No one can avoid this question.

Cross References

Matthew 27:22

> Pilate asked, “Then what should I do with Jesus, the one called the Christ?”

Luke 23:20

> Pilate wanted to free Jesus, so he called out to them again.

John 19:15

> Pilate asked them, “Do you want me to crucify your king?”

Spiritual Principle

Every person must decide what to do with Jesus.

Application

What have you done with Jesus?

XIII. CRUCIFY HIM!

Mark 15:13 — The Crowd Shouts

““Crucify Him!” they shouted.”

Two terrible words.

Crucifixion was the cruelest Roman execution.

It was used for slaves and rebels.

It was slow, painful, and shameful.

The crowd demanded the worst death for the best man who ever lived.

Cross References

Matthew 27:22

> They all answered, “Crucify Him!”

Luke 23:21

> But they kept shouting, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”

John 19:15

> They shouted, “Take Him away! Take Him away! Crucify Him!”

Spiritual Principle

Sinful hearts can turn violently against the innocent.

Key Truth

The crowd demanded the cross, and God used it to save the world.

XIV. WHAT CRIME?

Mark 15:14 — They Shouted Louder

““Why? What crime has He committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted louder, “Crucify Him!””

“Why? What crime has He committed?”

Pilate could find nothing wrong.

Jesus was innocent.

“But they shouted louder, ‘Crucify Him!’”

They had no answer.

Only louder shouting.

When there is no reason, people often just get louder.

Cross References

Matthew 27:23

> Pilate asked, “Why? What wrong has He done?” But they shouted even louder, “Crucify Him!”

Luke 23:22

> A third time Pilate said, “Why? What evil has He done? I find no reason to kill Him.”

John 19:6

> Pilate said, “Take Him and crucify Him yourselves. I find nothing to charge Him with.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus was completely innocent of any crime.

Key Truth

The only One who never sinned was condemned as a criminal.

XV. TO SATISFY THE CROWD

Mark 15:15 — Barabbas Released, Jesus Flogged

“Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas and had Jesus flogged, then handed Him over to be crucified.”

“Wanting to satisfy the crowd.”

Pilate chose popularity over justice.

“Pilate released Barabbas.”

The guilty man went free.

“And had Jesus flogged.”

Roman flogging used whips with pieces of bone and metal.

It tore the flesh.

Some people died from flogging alone.

“Then handed Him over to be crucified.”

Barabbas went free because Jesus took his place.

That is the gospel.

The guilty go free because the innocent One takes their place.

Cross References

Matthew 27:26

> Then he set Barabbas free. He had Jesus beaten with whips and handed Him over to be crucified.

Luke 23:25

> He freed the man who was in prison for riot and murder, and he handed Jesus over to do what they wanted.

Isaiah 53:5

> He was pierced because of our rebellion and crushed because of our sins. He took the punishment that made us whole, and His wounds healed us.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus took the place of the guilty so the guilty could go free.

Key Truth

We are all Barabbas, set free because Jesus took our place.

XVI. THE WHOLE COMPANY

Mark 15:16 — Into the Praetorium

“The soldiers took Jesus into the palace (the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers.”

“Into the palace (the Praetorium).”

The governor's headquarters.

“Called together the whole company of soldiers.”

A company could be hundreds of soldiers.

They gathered to make fun of Jesus.

He was surrounded by enemies.

Cross References

Matthew 27:27

> The governor's soldiers took Jesus into the governor's palace, and they all gathered around Him.

John 19:2

> The soldiers made a crown of thorny branches and put it on His head. They put a purple robe on Him.

Psalm 22:16

> Evil people have surrounded me like a pack of dogs.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus endured mockery from many to save many.

Key Truth

He was surrounded by enemies so we could be surrounded by grace.

XVII. A PURPLE ROBE AND A CROWN OF THORNS

Mark 15:17 — Dressed as a Mock King

“They put a purple robe on Him, twisted a crown of thorns, and set it on His head.”

“They put a purple robe on Him.”

Purple was the color of royalty.

They dressed Him as a fake king.

“Twisted a crown of thorns.”

A painful mock crown.

“And set it on His head.”

Thorns came into the world through the curse of sin.

Jesus wore the curse on His head.

Cross References

Matthew 27:29

> They made a crown of thorny branches, put it on His head, and put a stick in His right hand.

John 19:2

> The soldiers twisted thorns into a crown and put it on His head.

Genesis 3:18

> The ground will grow thorns and weeds for you.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus bore the curse of sin, pictured by the crown of thorns.

Key Truth

The King of kings wore a crown of thorns so we could wear a crown of life.

XVIII. HAIL, KING OF THE JEWS!

Mark 15:18 — Mocking Salute

“They mocked Him, shouting, “Hail, King of the Jews!””

The soldiers saluted Him the way they saluted the emperor.

But they meant it as a joke.

They had no idea they were speaking the truth.

He was the King.

Cross References

Matthew 27:29

> They knelt before Him and made fun of Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”

John 19:3

> They came to Him again and again and said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and slapped Him.

Psalm 22:7

> Everyone who sees me makes fun of me. They stick out their tongues and shake their heads.

Spiritual Principle

Even mockers unknowingly proclaim the truth about Jesus.

Key Truth

They mocked Him as King, and He truly was.

XIX. STRUCK AND SPAT ON

Mark 15:19 — Mock Worship

“They struck Him on the head with a staff, spit on Him, and knelt down in mock worship.”

“They struck Him on the head with a staff.”

Driving the thorns deeper.

“Spit on Him.”

Total contempt.

“And knelt down in mock worship.”

They pretended to bow.

One day every knee will truly bow.

Cross References

Matthew 27:30

> They spit on Him, took the stick, and kept hitting Him on the head.

Isaiah 50:6

> I gave my back to those who beat me and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard. I did not hide my face from insults and spitting.

John 19:3

> They hit Him in the face.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus suffered humiliation willingly for our sake.

Key Truth

They knelt in mockery before the One every knee will one day bow to in truth.

XX. LED AWAY TO BE CRUCIFIED

Mark 15:20 — His Own Clothes Back On

“After mocking Him, they took off the robe, put His own clothes back on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.”

“They took off the robe, put His own clothes back on Him.”

The mockery was over.

“And led Him away to crucify Him.”

Like a lamb led to the slaughter.

Jesus walked toward the cross.

Cross References

Matthew 27:31

> After they finished making fun of Him, they took off the robe, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

John 19:16

> Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took Jesus away.

Isaiah 53:7

> He was led like a lamb to be killed.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus went to the cross as the Lamb of God.

Key Truth

The Lamb was led out to be sacrificed for the sins of the world.

XXI. SIMON OF CYRENE

Mark 15:21 — Forced to Carry the Cross

“A man named Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was forced to carry His cross.”

“A man named Simon of Cyrene.”

Cyrene was in North Africa.

Simon may have come to Jerusalem for Passover.

“The father of Alexander and Rufus.”

Only Mark mentions his sons.

This suggests they were known to Mark's readers.

A Rufus is greeted in Paul's letter to the Romans.

Perhaps Simon's family became believers.

“Was forced to carry His cross.”

Jesus was too weak from the beating.

Simon literally took up the cross and followed Jesus.

Cross References

Matthew 27:32

> As the soldiers were going out of the city, they met a man from Cyrene named Simon and forced him to carry the cross for Jesus.

Luke 23:26

> They grabbed Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, put the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Romans 16:13

> Greet Rufus, who is a special servant of the Lord, and greet his mother, who has been like a mother to me too.

Spiritual Principle

An encounter with Jesus' cross can change a whole family.

Key Truth

Simon carried the cross behind Jesus, the picture of every disciple.

XXII. GOLGOTHA

Mark 15:22 — The Place of the Skull

“They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “The Place of the Skull”).”

“They brought Jesus.”

The word suggests they had to carry or support Him.

“Golgotha.”

An Aramaic word.

In Latin it is **Calvary**.

“The Place of the Skull.”

Perhaps the hill looked like a skull.

Or perhaps it was a place of execution.

It was outside the city walls.

Cross References

Matthew 27:33

> They came to a place called Golgotha, which means the Place of the Skull.

Luke 23:33

> When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus there.

John 19:17

> Carrying His own cross, Jesus went out to the place called the Skull, which in Hebrew is Golgotha.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus died outside the city, bearing our shame.

Key Truth

At the place of death, Jesus won life for us.

XXIII. WINE WITH MYRRH

Mark 15:23 — He Did Not Take It

“They offered Him wine mixed with myrrh, but He did not take it.”

“They offered Him wine mixed with myrrh.”

This drink may have dulled pain.

Some women in Jerusalem offered it to those being crucified.

“But He did not take it.”

Jesus refused.

He chose to face the full suffering with a clear mind.

He drank the full cup the Father gave Him.

Cross References

Matthew 27:34

They gave Jesus wine mixed with gall to drink. He tasted it but refused to drink it.

Psalm 69:21

They gave me poison for food, and when I was thirsty, they gave me vinegar to drink.

Proverbs 31:6

Give beer to people who are dying and wine to those who are sad.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus chose to bear the full weight of suffering for us.

Key Truth

Jesus refused anything that would dull His sacrifice.

XXIV. THEY CRUCIFIED HIM

Mark 15:24 — Dividing His Clothes

“They crucified Him and divided His clothes by casting lots.”

“They crucified Him.”

Mark describes it simply.

Everyone in his day knew the horror of crucifixion.

Nails through hands and feet.

Hours of agony.

Struggling to breathe.

“And divided His clothes by casting lots.”

Soldiers gambled for His clothing.

This fulfilled Psalm 22.

Jesus was stripped of everything.

Cross References

Matthew 27:35

> When the soldiers had crucified Him, they gambled to divide His clothes.

Psalm 22:18

> They split up my clothes among themselves and gamble to see who gets my robe.

John 19:24

> So they said, “Let's not tear it, but throw lots to see who will get it.” This happened so that the Scripture would come true.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus gave up everything, even His clothing, for us.

Key Truth

Every detail of the cross fulfilled Scripture.

XXV. THE THIRD HOUR

Mark 15:25 — Nine in the Morning

“It was the third hour (9 a.m.) when they crucified Him.”

Mark gives the time.

About nine o'clock in the morning.

The time of the morning sacrifice at the temple.

John mentions a different time for an earlier part of the trial.

Bible students explain this in different ways, such as the use of different ways of counting hours or general rather than exact times.

The point is that Jesus suffered for many hours.

Cross References

John 19:14

> It was about noon on Preparation Day of the Passover week.

Matthew 27:45

> At noon the whole country became dark, and the darkness lasted for three hours.

Psalm 22:16

> They have pierced my hands and feet.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus endured hours of suffering for our salvation.

Key Truth

The true sacrifice was offered at the hour of the morning offering.

XXVI. THE KING OF THE JEWS

Mark 15:26 — The Written Charge

“The written charge against Him read: The King of the Jews.”

A sign was posted above the cross stating the crime.

“The King of the Jews.”

Rome meant it as a warning to anyone who claimed to be a king.

But it told the truth.

The King was dying for His people.

Cross References

Matthew 27:37

> They put a sign above His head with the charge against Him: “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

Luke 23:38

> There was a sign above Him that said, “This is the King of the Jews.”

John 19:19

Pilate wrote a sign and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

Spiritual Principle

Even the charge against Jesus proclaimed the truth about Him.

Key Truth

The sign meant as an insult was a declaration of truth.

XXVII. ONE ON HIS RIGHT, ONE ON HIS LEFT

Mark 15:27 — Two Rebels

“Two rebels were crucified with Him, one on His right and one on His left.”

“Two rebels.”

Perhaps men like Barabbas.

“One on His right and one on His left.”

Remember James and John asked to sit at His right and left in His glory.

This was His glory.

The cross.

And those beside Him were criminals.

Cross References

Matthew 27:38

Two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left.

Luke 23:33

They crucified Him there, along with the criminals, one on His right and one on His left.

Isaiah 53:12

He was counted among sinners. He carried the sins of many and prayed for those who sinned against Him.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus was numbered with sinners so sinners could be saved.

Key Truth

The places James and John wanted were filled by criminals.

XXVIII. COUNTED AMONG THE TRANSGRESSORS

Mark 15:28 — Scripture Fulfilled

“This fulfilled the Scripture: “He was counted among the transgressors.””

Isaiah 53 said the Servant would be counted with sinners.

Jesus was crucified between criminals.

This verse is not found in many of the oldest copies of Mark.

But Luke records Jesus quoting the same verse.

The truth is the same.

Jesus took the sinner's place.

Cross References

Isaiah 53:12

> He was treated like a criminal.

Luke 22:37

> It is written, “He was treated like a criminal,” and this must come true about Me.

Luke 23:33

> They crucified Him there with the criminals.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus was counted as a sinner so sinners could be counted righteous.

Key Truth

The sinless One was numbered with sinners.

XXIX. INSULTS FROM PASSERSBY

Mark 15:29 — Shaking Their Heads

“Those who passed by hurled insults at Him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,””

“Those who passed by hurled insults at Him.”

The cross was near a road.

People walking by mocked Him.

“Shaking their heads.”

Exactly as Psalm 22 described.

“You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days.”

They repeated the twisted charge from His trial.

They did not know that in three days He would rise.

Cross References

Matthew 27:40

> They said, “You said You could destroy the temple and build it again in three days. Save Yourself!”

Psalm 22:7

> Everyone who sees me laughs at me. They insult me and shake their heads.

Lamentations 2:15

> All who pass by clap their hands at you. They hiss and shake their heads.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus endured mockery while fulfilling the very words they mocked.

Key Truth

They mocked Him for words He was about to fulfill.

XXX. SAVE YOURSELF!

Mark 15:30 — Come Down

“come down from the cross and save Yourself!””

This was the same temptation Satan offered.

Use Your power for Yourself.

Avoid the cross.

Jesus could have come down.

But if He saved Himself, He could not save us.

Cross References

Matthew 27:40

> Come down from that cross if You are the Son of God!

Luke 23:35

> Let Him save Himself if He is the Christ.

Psalm 22:8

> He trusts in the Lord. Let the Lord rescue him.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus stayed on the cross to save others.

Key Truth

Love kept Jesus on the cross, not nails.

XXXI. HE SAVED OTHERS

Mark 15:31 — But He Can't Save Himself

“In the same way, the chief priests and teachers of the law mocked Him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but He can't save Himself!””

“He saved others.”

Even they admitted it.

“But He can't save Himself!”

They meant it as an insult.

But it was the deepest truth of the cross.

He could not save Himself and save us at the same time.

He chose to save us.

Cross References

Matthew 27:42

> He saved others, but He cannot save Himself!

Luke 23:35

> He saved others. Let Him save Himself.

Psalm 22:8

> He trusted the Lord. Let the Lord save him.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus did not save Himself so that He could save us.

Key Truth

The mockers spoke the gospel without knowing it.

XXXII. THAT WE MAY SEE AND BELIEVE

Mark 15:32 — Even the Criminals Insulted Him

“Let this Messiah, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Even those crucified with Him insulted Him.”

“Let this Messiah, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross.”

They demanded a sign.

“That we may see and believe.”

But they would not have believed.

Jesus did something greater.

He did not come down.

He rose from the dead.

“Even those crucified with Him insulted Him.”

Luke tells us one of them later repented.

Cross References

Matthew 27:42

> He is the King of Israel! Let Him come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him.

Luke 23:35

> The leaders made fun of Him.

Psalm 22:8

> Since he delights in the Lord, let the Lord deliver him.

Spiritual Principle

Faith that demands signs on its own terms is not true faith.

Key Truth

Jesus gave them a greater sign than coming down: He came out of the tomb.

XXXIII. DARKNESS AT NOON

Mark 15:33 — Over the Whole Land

“At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.”

“At noon.”

The brightest time of day.

“Darkness came over the whole land.”

God covered the land in darkness.

The prophet Amos spoke of the sun going down at noon on the day of judgment.

“Until three in the afternoon.”

Three hours of darkness.

The darkness pictured God's judgment on sin.

Jesus was bearing that judgment for us.

Cross References

Matthew 27:45

> From noon until three o'clock, the whole land was dark.

Luke 23:44

> It was about noon, and the whole land became dark until three o'clock, because the sun stopped shining.

Amos 8:9

> The Lord God says, “On that day I will make the sun go down at noon and make the earth dark in broad daylight.”

Spiritual Principle

At the cross, God's judgment against sin fell on Jesus.

Key Truth

The Light of the world entered darkness so we could walk in light.

XXXIV. WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

Mark 15:34 — Eloi, Eloi

“At three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?””

“Jesus cried out in a loud voice.”

The only words from the cross in Mark.

“Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?”

Aramaic, the language Jesus spoke.

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

Jesus quoted Psalm 22:1.

This is the deepest mystery of the cross.

Jesus, who always had perfect fellowship with the Father, experienced being forsaken.

He bore the separation that our sin deserves.

He was forsaken so that we would never be.

Psalm 22 begins in agony but ends in victory and praise.

Jesus may have been pointing to the whole psalm.

Cross References

Psalm 22:1

> My God, my God, why have You walked away from me? Why do You stay so far off when I groan and cry out for help?

Matthew 27:46

> About three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me?”

Isaiah 53:4

> He picked up our sickness and carried our sorrows. Yet we thought God was the One striking Him down.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus was forsaken so that we could be forever accepted.

Key Truth

The cry of abandonment was the cost of our adoption.

XXXV. HE'S CALLING ELIJAH

Mark 15:35 — Misunderstood

“Some who heard this said, “Listen, He's calling Elijah.””

Some misunderstood.

Eloi sounded like **Elijah**.

Many believed Elijah would come to help the righteous in trouble.

They mocked Jesus even in His cry of agony.

Cross References

Matthew 27:47

> Some of those standing there heard this and said, “He is calling Elijah.”

Malachi 4:5

> I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and terrible day of the Lord.

John 1:21

> They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?” He said, “No, I am not.”

Spiritual Principle

Those far from God often misunderstand His work.

Key Truth

They waited for Elijah, not knowing Elijah had already come in John.

XXXVI. SOUR WINE ON A SPONGE

Mark 15:36 — Let's See If Elijah Comes

“Someone ran, filled a sponge with vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Leave Him alone now. Let's see if Elijah comes to take Him down,” they said.”

“Filled a sponge with vinegar.”

Cheap sour wine that soldiers drank.

“And offered it to Jesus to drink.”

This fulfilled Psalm 69.

“Let's see if Elijah comes to take Him down.”

More mockery.

Elijah would not come.

But God would raise Jesus up.

Cross References

Matthew 27:48

> One of them quickly ran and got a sponge, filled it with vinegar, put it on a stick, and gave it to Jesus to drink.

Psalm 69:21

> When I was thirsty, they gave me vinegar to drink.

John 19:29

> There was a jar full of vinegar there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a branch, and lifted it to His mouth.

Spiritual Principle

Every detail of Jesus' suffering fulfilled Scripture.

Key Truth

Jesus tasted the bitterness of death for us.

XXXVII. HE BREATHED HIS LAST

Mark 15:37 — A Loud Cry

“With a loud cry, Jesus breathed His last.”

“With a loud cry.”

Crucifixion usually left victims too weak to shout.

But Jesus cried out loudly.

John tells us He said, **“It is finished.”**

Luke tells us He said, **“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.”**

“Jesus breathed His last.”

Jesus died.

He gave up His life.

No one took it from Him.

He laid it down.

Cross References

Matthew 27:50

> Jesus cried out again in a loud voice and died.

Luke 23:46

> Jesus cried out, “Father, I put My spirit into Your hands.” After He said this, He died.

John 19:30

> When Jesus had tasted the vinegar, He said, “It is finished.” Then He bowed His head and died.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus laid down His life willingly for us.

Key Truth

His loud cry was a shout of victory, not defeat.

XXXVIII. THE CURTAIN TORN

Mark 15:38 — From Top to Bottom

“The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.”

“The curtain of the temple.”

A huge, thick curtain separated the Most Holy Place from the rest of the temple.

Only the high priest could go behind it, once a year.

It showed that sin separated people from God.

“Was torn in two.”

At the moment Jesus died.

“From top to bottom.”

Not from the bottom up, as a human might tear it.

From the top down.

God tore it.

The way into God's presence was now open through Jesus.

Remember Mark 1, where heaven was **torn open** at Jesus' baptism.

Mark uses the same word here.

Cross References

Matthew 27:51

> At that moment the curtain in the temple was torn into two pieces, from the top to the bottom.

Luke 23:45

> The curtain in the temple was torn in two.

Hebrews 10:20

> Jesus made a brand-new, living path for us to come to God. He opened the curtain for us by giving His own body.

Spiritual Principle

Through Jesus' death, the way to God is open to all.

Key Truth

God tore the curtain from top to bottom to say, “Come in.”

XXXIX. SURELY THIS MAN WAS THE SON OF GOD

Mark 15:39 — The Centurion's Confession

“When the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how He died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!””

“When the centurion.”

A Roman officer in charge of the crucifixion.

A Gentile.

“Who stood there in front of Jesus.”

He watched everything up close.

“Saw how He died.”

It was the way Jesus died that convinced him.

“Surely this man was the Son of God!”

This is the climax of Mark's Gospel.

Mark 1:1 began, **“Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”**

Now, at the cross, the first human in Mark to confess Jesus as God's Son is a Roman soldier.

The cross reveals who Jesus is.

Cross References

Matthew 27:54

> When the army officer and those guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and everything that happened, they were very afraid and said, “He really was the Son of God!”

Luke 23:47

> When the army officer saw what happened, he praised God, saying, “Surely this was a good man!”

Romans 1:4

> When He rose from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit, He was shown in power to be the Son of God. He is Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Spiritual Principle

The cross reveals Jesus as the Son of God.

Key Truth

A Roman soldier saw the Son of God in a dying man.

XL. WOMEN WATCHING

Mark 15:40 — From a Distance

“Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.”

“Some women were watching from a distance.”

The male disciples had fled.

But the women stayed.

“Mary Magdalene.”

Jesus had freed her from seven demons.

“Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses.”

“And Salome.”

Perhaps the mother of James and John.

These women would be witnesses of His death, burial, and resurrection.

Cross References

Matthew 27:56

> Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

Luke 23:49

> All those who knew Jesus, including the women who had followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance and watched.

John 19:25

> Standing near His cross were His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love stays when others flee.

Key Truth

The women who stayed became the first witnesses of the resurrection.

XLI. THEY HAD FOLLOWED HIM

Mark 15:41 — Caring for His Needs

“These women had followed Him in Galilee and cared for His needs. Many other women who had come with Him to Jerusalem were also there.”

“These women had followed Him in Galilee.”

They were true disciples.

“And cared for His needs.”

They supported His ministry with their own money and service.

“Many other women who had come with Him to Jerusalem were also there.”

Women played a vital role in Jesus' ministry.

At the cross, they showed more courage than the men.

Cross References

Luke 8:3

> Joanna, Susanna, and many other women helped support Jesus and His followers with their own money.

Matthew 27:55

> Many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for Him were watching from a distance.

Luke 23:49

> The women who had followed Him from Galilee stood watching.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful service and courageous love honor Jesus.

Key Truth

The women served Jesus in life and stayed with Him in death.

XLII. PREPARATION DAY

Mark 15:42 — The Day Before the Sabbath

“It was Preparation Day (the day before the Sabbath).”

Friday.

The Sabbath began at sunset.

No work could be done on the Sabbath.

Bodies could not be left on crosses over the Sabbath.

So Jesus had to be buried quickly.

Cross References

Matthew 27:62

> The next day, the day after Preparation Day.

John 19:31

> This day was Preparation Day, and the next day was a special Sabbath. The Jewish leaders did not want the bodies on the crosses on the Sabbath.

John 19:42

> Because it was the Jewish Preparation Day and the tomb was nearby, they put Jesus there.

Spiritual Principle

God's timing governed even the burial of Jesus.

Key Truth

Jesus rested in the tomb on the Sabbath.

XLIII. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA

Mark 15:43 — He Went Boldly

“Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council who was waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.”

“Joseph of Arimathea.”

A town in Judea.

“A respected member of the council.”

A member of the Sanhedrin.

Luke tells us he did not agree with their decision.

Not all the leaders were against Jesus.

“Who was waiting for the kingdom of God.”

He was a seeker.

“Went boldly to Pilate.”

This took courage.

He risked his reputation.

“And asked for Jesus' body.”

While the disciples hid, Joseph stepped forward.

Cross References

Matthew 27:58

> Joseph went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate ordered that it be given to him.

Luke 23:52

> Joseph went to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus.

John 19:38

> Joseph of Arimathea, a secret follower of Jesus because he was afraid of the leaders, asked Pilate for Jesus' body.

Spiritual Principle

God raises up unexpected people with courage at the right time.

Key Truth

A secret disciple became a bold one at the cross.

XLIV. ALREADY DEAD?

Mark 15:44 — Pilate Surprised

“Pilate was surprised to hear that He was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked if Jesus had already died.”

Crucified people often lived for days.

Pilate was surprised Jesus died so soon.

He checked with the centurion.

This detail matters.

It confirms that Jesus truly died.

He did not faint or pretend.

Cross References

Matthew 27:58

> Pilate ordered the body to be given to him.

John 19:33

> When the soldiers came to Jesus, they saw He was already dead, so they did not break His legs.

John 19:38

Pilate gave permission.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' death was real and confirmed.

Key Truth

The Roman officer confirmed what the resurrection would overturn.

XLV. THE BODY GIVEN TO JOSEPH

Mark 15:45 — It Was So

“When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph.”

The centurion confirmed it.

Jesus was dead.

Pilate released the body to Joseph.

An official Roman witness confirmed Jesus' death.

Cross References

Matthew 27:58

Pilate gave orders that the body be given to Joseph.

John 19:38

With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away.

Luke 23:52

Joseph asked for the body.

Spiritual Principle

God provides witnesses to confirm the truth.

Key Truth

Jesus' death was certified by Rome itself.

XLVI. LAID IN A TOMB

Mark 15:46 — A Stone Rolled

“Joseph bought some linen, took the body down, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. He rolled a stone against the entrance.”

“Joseph bought some linen.”

He provided a burial cloth.

“Took the body down.”

Tenderly, Joseph took Jesus' body from the cross.

“Wrapped it in the linen.”

“And placed it in a tomb cut out of rock.”

Matthew tells us it was Joseph's own new tomb.

Isaiah said the Servant would be with the rich in His death.

“He rolled a stone against the entrance.”

A large stone sealed the tomb.

It seemed final.

But not for long.

Cross References

Matthew 27:60

> He put it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of rock. He rolled a large stone in front of the entrance and went away.

Luke 23:53

> He took the body down, wrapped it in cloth, and put it in a tomb cut in rock, where no one had been buried.

Isaiah 53:9

> He was buried with wicked people, and He was with the rich in His death, though He had done nothing wrong.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus was truly buried, so His resurrection would be truly victorious.

Key Truth

The stone that sealed the tomb would soon be rolled away.

XLVII. THEY SAW WHERE HE WAS LAID

Mark 15:47 — Two Marys

“Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where He was laid.”

The women watched.

They saw exactly where Jesus was buried.

This matters.

On Sunday morning, they would go to the right tomb.

And they would find it empty.

The women saw Him die, saw Him buried, and would see that He had risen.

Cross References

Matthew 27:61

> Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting across from the tomb.

Luke 23:55

> The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how Jesus' body was laid.

Mark 16:1

> When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices to anoint Jesus' body.

Spiritual Principle

God provides faithful witnesses to His great acts.

Key Truth

The women knew exactly where the body was, which made the empty tomb undeniable.

XLVIII. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM MARK 15

1. Jesus Is the True King

“Hail, King of the Jews!”

Principle:

Though mocked with a crown of thorns, He reigns as Lord of all.

2. The Crowd Chose Barabbas over Christ

“Pilate released Barabbas.”

Principle:

It is a picture of humanity choosing sin over the Savior, and of the guilty set free because Jesus took their place.

3. The Cross Fulfills Prophecy

“He was counted among the transgressors.”

Principle:

Jesus was numbered with sinners and bore our shame.

4. The Darkness Shows God's Judgment

“Darkness came over the whole land.”

Principle:

The weight of sin fell on Christ at the cross.

5. The Temple Curtain Torn

“The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.”

Principle:

Access to God is now open through Jesus' sacrifice.

6. The Centurion's Confession

“Surely this man was the Son of God!”

Principle:

Even a Roman soldier recognized Him as the Son of God.

7. The Faithful Women

“Some women were watching.”

Principle:

They remained when many disciples fled.

XLIX. THE KING IN MARK 15

The word **king** appears again and again in this chapter.

Pilate Asked

“Are You the King of the Jews?”

Pilate Offered

“Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?”

Pilate Questioned

“What shall I do, then, with the one you call the King of the Jews?”

The Soldiers Mocked

“Hail, King of the Jews!”

The Sign Declared

“The King of the Jews.”

The Leaders Taunted

“Let this Messiah, the King of Israel, come down.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Everyone mocked Jesus as King, but the cross was His throne.

L. BARABBAS AND US

Barabbas is a picture of every sinner.

Barabbas Was Guilty

So are we.

Barabbas Deserved to Die

So do we.

Barabbas Was Set Free

So are we.

Jesus Took His Place

Jesus took ours.

Key Truth

Every believer can say, “I am Barabbas, and Jesus died in my place.”

LI. WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CROSS

Mark 15 shows what Jesus accomplished.

He Took Our Place

The innocent for the guilty.

He Bore Our Curse

The crown of thorns pictured sin's curse.

He Bore God's Judgment

The darkness covered the land.

He Was Forsaken for Us

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

He Opened the Way to God

The curtain was torn from top to bottom.

He Revealed Who He Is

“Surely this man was the Son of God!”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

At the cross, Jesus did everything needed to bring us to God.

LII. WHAT MARK 15 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

He Is the King

“The King of the Jews.”

He Is the Silent Lamb

“Jesus made no reply.”

He Is the Innocent One

“What crime has He committed?”

He Is Our Substitute

“Pilate released Barabbas.”

He Bore Our Sin

“Counted among the transgressors.”

He Was Forsaken for Us

“Why have You forsaken Me?”

He Opened the Way to God

“The curtain… was torn.”

He Is the Son of God

“Surely this man was the Son of God!”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus is the King who died in our place and opened the way to God.

LIII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why did the council take Jesus to Pilate?

Only the Roman governor had the power to carry out the death penalty.

Question 2

Why was Jesus silent before His accusers?

He fulfilled Isaiah 53 and did not need to defend Himself against lies.

Question 3

Who was Barabbas?

A violent rebel and murderer who was set free instead of Jesus.

Question 4

Why did the leaders hand Jesus over?

Pilate knew it was out of envy.

Question 5

Why did Pilate hand Jesus over to be crucified?

He wanted to satisfy the crowd, even though he knew Jesus was innocent.

Question 6

What did the crown of thorns symbolize?

Mockery of His kingship, and also the curse of sin that Jesus bore.

Question 7

Who was Simon of Cyrene?

A man from North Africa forced to carry Jesus' cross, whose sons were likely known to the early church.

Question 8

What did Jesus mean when He cried, “Why have You forsaken Me?”

He was bearing the separation our sin deserves, quoting Psalm 22.

Question 9

What does the torn curtain mean?

The way into God's presence is now open through Jesus.

Question 10

What did the centurion confess?

“Surely this man was the Son of God!”

Question 11

Why is it important that the women saw where Jesus was buried?

It confirmed they went to the right tomb on Sunday and found it empty.

Question 12

What should Mark 15 change about the way Christians live today?

Mark 15 should cause believers to live:

- Worshiping Jesus as the true King.
- Remembering that Jesus took their place.
- Choosing Jesus over sin.
- Coming boldly to God through the torn curtain.
- Confessing Jesus as the Son of God.
- Staying faithful when others flee.
- Being courageous like Joseph.
- Never blaming any people group for Jesus' death, but seeing their own sin at the cross.

LIV. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Mark 15 asks several important questions.

What Will I Do with Jesus?

Pilate's question is my question.

Have I Chosen Barabbas or Jesus?

Am I choosing sin over the Savior?

Do I See Myself as Barabbas?

Do I know Jesus took my place?

Do I Worship Jesus as King?

Or do I mock His rule by how I live?

Am I Willing to Carry the Cross?

Like Simon, following Jesus?

Do I Come Boldly to God?

Through the curtain Jesus opened?

Have I Confessed Jesus as the Son of God?

Like the centurion?

Am I Faithful When Others Flee?

Like the women at the cross?

LV. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“He Saved Others”

The leaders stood at the foot of the cross.

They laughed.

They shook their heads.

“He saved others, but He can't save Himself!”

They meant it as an insult.

But they spoke the deepest truth of the gospel.

Jesus could have come down.

He could have called angels.

He could have saved Himself.

But if He saved Himself, He could not save us.

So He stayed.

Through the mockery.

Through the darkness.

Through the cry of forsakenness.

Until He breathed His last.

This creates a powerful principle.

Love does not save itself.

Love gives itself away.

Principle:

Jesus did not save Himself, because He was saving you.

LVI. FINAL APPLICATION

Mark Chapter 15 brings us to the foot of the cross.

Jesus stands silent before Pilate.

A murderer goes free.

The King wears a crown of thorns.

He is crucified between criminals.

He is mocked by all.

Darkness covers the land.

He cries out in forsakenness.

He dies.

The curtain is torn.

A soldier confesses Him as the Son of God.

Faithful women watch.

And He is laid in a tomb.

Mark 15 therefore reminds us:

Never forget that Jesus took your place.

Never choose sin over the Savior.

Never treat the cross lightly.

Never stay outside when the curtain is open.

Never be ashamed to confess Him.

The church does not need people who only admire the cross.

It needs:

People who know they are Barabbas.

People who follow Jesus carrying the cross.

People who come boldly to God through Jesus.

And people who confess, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

The same Jesus still calls:

Tell people that Jesus died in their place.

Tell people that the way to God is open.

Tell people that the crucified King is the Son of God.

Tell people that the tomb would not hold Him.

And as you live:

Remember the cross.

Come to God through Jesus.

Confess Him as the Son of God.

Stay faithful.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for sending Jesus, the true King, to die for us.

Thank You that He stood silent before His accusers like a lamb.

Thank You that He took our place, as He took the place of Barabbas.

Thank You that He wore the crown of thorns and bore the curse of our sin.

Thank You that He was forsaken so that we would never be forsaken.

Thank You that the curtain was torn and the way to You is open.

Thank You for the confession, “Surely this man was the Son of God.”

Thank You for the faithful women and for Joseph's courage.

Forgive us when we have chosen sin over the Savior.

Forgive us when we have mocked His kingship by how we live.

Forgive us when we have been ashamed of the cross.

Forgive us when we have fled instead of staying faithful.

Help us never forget that Jesus took our place.

Help us come boldly to You through the way He opened.

Make us faithful like the women at the cross.

Make us courageous like Joseph.

And help us confess with all our hearts that Jesus is the Son of God.

“Surely this man was the Son of God!”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“When the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how He died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”” — Mark 15:39

Central Truth

Jesus, the true King, was rejected, mocked, crucified, and forsaken in our place, and through His death the way to God was opened, so that even a Roman soldier confessed Him as the Son of God.

Mark 15 in One Sentence

Jesus stands silent before Pilate, is rejected in favor of Barabbas, is mocked as King and crucified between criminals, cries out "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" and dies as the temple curtain is torn and a centurion confesses Him as the Son of God, and then He is buried while faithful women watch.