

The Trial and Crucifixion of Jesus

Mark Chapter 15

The 14th chapter was the Betrayal, Denial and Religious Trial of Jesus. This 15th chapter we will see Secular Trial and the Crucifixion of Jesus. This is the point that all eternity is focused upon. Often times we read this and see the horrid tragedy of an innocent being accused and judged and killed the entire time He is innocent. Our heart cries out with sympathy because of this tragic circumstance.

We should not look at this chapter with sympathy for Jesus but rather walk through these passages with reverence, and faith and thanksgiving for such a great victory of salvation won here. For concerning Jesus, **Rev 5:12** says, “*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*”

Mar 15:1 1) Jesus Carried Before Pilate vs 1-5

Early in the morning the chief priests with the elders and scribes and the whole Council, immediately held a consultation; and binding Jesus, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate.

- *The Middle of the Night trial was an illegal trial and the legal trial was held in the morning quickly just to get the story straight before they went to Pilate. (Luke 22:66-71)*
- *Remember the Jews could not put anyone to death. This ability for self governance was removed by the Romans in A.D. 7. It required an official Roman court to sentence a criminal to death and to carry out the punishment. (Also see John 18:31)*
- *The chief priest took Jesus to the Official Roman court which was the Pilate's Court.*
- *Pilate:*
 - *A Roman Governor over Judea 26 AD - 36 AD*
 - *He was directly responsible to the emperor Tiberius Caesar*
 - *Scholars used to deny his existence*
 - *2 Jewish historians ever wrote about him Josephus & Philo*
 - *Roman historian Tacitus mentions him briefly*
 - *Much is tradition and legend*
 - *But in June 1961 Italian archaeologists led by Dr. Frova were excavating an ancient Roman amphitheatre near Caesarea-on-the-Sea (Maritima) and uncovered an interesting limestone block. On the face is a monumental inscription which is part of a larger dedication to Tiberius Caesar which clearly says that it was from "Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea."*
 - *His impression made upon Jews*
 - 1) *When coming to Jerusalem he came marching in with banners of idolatrous images of the emperor and caused a riot.*
 - 2) *Once he placed golden shields on his palace on Mt Zion upon the shields inscriptions bore names of various gods. This too caused a riot.*
 - 3) *He had used sacred treasures from the Temple to build an aqueduct. This caused a riot.*
 - 4) *Jesus had referred to an incident where certain Galilean priests were slaughtered by order of Pilate. (Luke 13:1)*
 - *All these things Pilate had been reprimanded for and was in danger of losing position if riots were constantly breaking out.*
 - *So this issue One group of Jews wanting to kill another Jew who was popular is dangerous business.*

Mar 15:2 Pilate questioned Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" And He *answered him, "{It is as} you say."

- From the beginning of this gospel we have seen that it covers a lot of ground quickly. The interaction between Pilate, the Sanhedrin, and Jesus is more detailed in John's Gospel Ch. 18:28-40
- Jews bring Jesus but do not enter house of Gentile
- Pilate comes **out** to them to hear the charge ... Goes **in** to question Jesus ...Goes **out** to the Jews to tell them He finds no fault. They say give us Barabbas ... He goes **in** and scourged Jesus ...He goes **out** and brings Jesus out w/ robe and thorns. ... He goes **in** and questions Jesus again. ...He goes **out** again and hands Jesus over to be crucified
- Here in Mark Jesus answers Pilate's question "Are You King?" "It is as you say."

Mar 15:3 The chief priests {began} to accuse Him harshly.

Mar 15:4 Then Pilate questioned Him again, saying, "Do You not answer? See how many charges they bring against You!"

- Luke 23:1-2 "Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate. And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."
- The main charges brought before Pilate about Jesus were political and not religious. Jesus was accused of being a political threat to Rome and to Caesar's authority. In the religious trial, the chief priests wanted Him killed because He claimed to be the Messiah.
- Pilate spoke with Jesus and considered the charges being brought against Jesus.
 1. He subverts the nation
 2. He opposes payment of taxes
 3. He claims to be a King

Mar 15:5 But Jesus made no further answer; so Pilate was amazed.

- Isaiah 53:7 "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."
- Pilate amazed This court was used to men crying out a desperate defense. And the Romans didn't like to sentence anyone to death with out some defense.

Luke 23:8-12 tells us at this point Pilate sent Jesus to Herod who questioned Him and mocked Him and sent Him back to Pilate not finding any fault.

- Pilate was trying to have Jesus convince him as to what to do with Him. He tried to get Herod to help him with a decision about Jesus. Jesus wouldn't allow Pilate any wiggle room. He had to make his own decision about Jesus. Everyone of us are in the very same place. We stand alone when we make this decision as to who Jesus is.

Mar 15:6 2) Jesus Condemned, Barabbas Released vs 6-15

Now at {the} feast he used to release for them {any} one prisoner whom they requested.

Mar 15:7 The man named Barabbas had been imprisoned with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the insurrection.

- *Simon BarJonah means Bar = son of Simon Son of Jonah*
- *Barabbas means Bar = Son of Abba means the Father*
- *This portion is very interesting that before them is a man named son of the father and then there is the true Son of the Father.*
- *I believe there is before all men the same two men the True Son of the Father and a false son of the father that we choose from. One Gives His life to save and the other takes life (a murderer) and save only himself. The world chooses this false son of the father.*

Mar 15:8 The crowd went up and began asking him {to} {do} as he had been accustomed to do for them.

Mar 15:9 Pilate answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

- *Pilate is mocking the Jews*

Mar 15:10 For he was aware that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.

Mar 15:11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd {to ask} him to release Barabbas for them instead.

Mar 15:12 Answering again, Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?"

Mar 15:13 They shouted back, "Crucify Him!"

Mar 15:14 But Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify Him!"

- *Pilate still doesn't find anything wrong but he doesn't take a stand for what is right.*
- *Pilate fears a riot on releases a prisoner of the righteous one.*
- *The Jews shouted all the more!! If losing the argument yell all the more!!*

Mar 15:15 Wishing to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas for them, and after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.

- *Barabbas was released and Jesus was crucified.*
- *Here is the image of our salvation. We were the murderer. We were the insurrectionist. Yet we were released. Jesus, who was innocent, was punished where we should have been.*
- *Pilate called for the bowl and washed his hands of His blood. Where would we be if we were free of His blood. The answer - still lost in our trespass and sin*
- *Dr. William Edwards [with others] in JAMA, 3/21/86) SCOURGING*
 - Add to Jesus' condition the horror of being scourged. The goal of the scourging was to weaken the victim to a state just short of collapse and death. "As the Roman soldiers repeatedly struck the victim's back with full force, the iron balls would cause deep contusions, and the leather thongs and sheep bones would cut into the skin and subcutaneous tissues. Then, as the flogging continued, the lacerations would tear into the underlying skeletal muscles and produce quivering ribbons of bleeding flesh. Pain and blood loss generally set the stage for circulatory shock. The extent of blood loss may well have determined how long the victim would survive the cross." (Edwards)*
 - "The severe scourging, with its intense pain and appreciable blood loss, most probably left Jesus in a pre-shock state. Moreover, hematomas had rendered his skin particularly tender. The physical and mental abuse meted out by the Jews and the Romans, as well as the lack of food, water, and sleep, also contributed to his generally weakened state. Therefore, even before the actual crucifixion, Jesus' physical condition was at least serious and possibly critical." (Edwards)*

Mar 15:16 **3) Jesus Crowned with Thorns** vs 16-21

The soldiers took Him away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium), and they *called together the whole {Roman} cohort.

- For a Roman Soldier, being assigned to Judea was the worst assignment possible. The people hated you and felt you were unclean.
- This violent mocking came out of a liberty the soldiers had to release all the pent up anger and frustration they had towards the assignment and this contrary people.

Mar 15:17 They *dressed Him up in purple, and after twisting a crown of thorns, they put it on Him;

Mar 15:18 and they began to acclaim Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Mar 15:19 They kept beating His head with a reed, and spitting on Him, and kneeling and bowing before Him.

Mar 15:20 After they had mocked Him, they took the purple robe off Him and put His {own} garments on Him. And they *led Him out to crucify Him.

- Mocking is as old as Adam and Eve. It has always been around since the fall of man.
- Two types of Mocking
- **ONE** - Mocking (as in to mimic or scorn) - This is to treat somebody or imitate somebody in a way that is intended to make that person appear silly or ridiculous This mocking in a very wicked way points to who Jesus really was and yet what they were denying.
 - Dressed in Purple - Royal Heritage Son of God
 - Crown of Thorns - Noble or Holy, set apart, special
 - Hail King of the Jews - He was King and worthy of praise
 - A Reed - Matt 27:29 says He was given a stick as a mock scepter yet it was taken from Him and he was repeatedly hit on the head with it - Authority and Judgment
 - Kneeling and Bowing Before - He is to be surrendered to; to yield to; to offer your service to
 - Lead Him Out - This was a means by which the guards would advertise the crucifixion of a criminal, by parading him through the streets. Jesus was worthy of a Royal Procession with all the honor a victorious warrior/king should receive.
- **TWO** - Mocking (as to imitate or pretend) made to appear like something else, usually something older or more expensive. Jesus doesn't imitate or pretend. But we do.
 - We need to know who and what we are and our rightful place. Many times we think too highly of ourselves. And just as bad we think too lowly of ourselves.
 - We should not mock ourselves (imitate or pretend) We are:
 - 1) God's design - a design that is called good in Genesis
 - 2) We are sinners - by our own doing we have corrupted the design
 - 3) We are Loved - even tho we were sinners
 - 4) We are God's workmanship His project.
 - 5) We are the clay He is the potter
- When we are mocked.
- John 15:20 "If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you;"
 - We are just mocked not martyred
 - It is an honor to be so compared / identified with Christ
 - Oh If only those things said were true
 - A consolation or reward awaits those mocked or persecuted. Rev 2:10 James 1:12 (crowns)
- 2Cr 1:5 "For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ."
- Rom 8:18 "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time [are] not worthy [to be compared] with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Mar 15:21 They *pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), to bear His cross.

- *Simon of Cyrene*
- *Jew from North Africa (Libya - other side of Egypt across the Mediterranean Sea from Israel)*
- *Cyrene was Greek but under Roman control and many of the Jews there were Hellenistic Jews.*
- *Father of at least 2 (Alexander & Rufus)*
- *Probably there for Passover to worship*
- *PRESSED INTO SERVICE not wanting to carry Jesus' cross*
- *AGARIAN RIGHT - a Roman soldier had the right to enlist upon demand a civilian to carry his gear for one mile. (Jesus said if one asks you to walk with him a mile go with him another.)*
- *What He reluctantly did or was forced to do, became the most blessed event in his life.*
- *Named Simon. Where was the other Simon Carrying His Cross???*
- *Rufus mentioned in Romans 16:13 as a member of the church. Also the details listed here point to the fact that Simon was intimately known by the church*
- *A tomb in ??? found In 1941, the Israeli archaeologist Eleazar Sukenik from the Hebrew University, and his assistant Nahman Avigad, discovered a rock tomb in the Kidron valley in eastern Jerusalem. In this tomb they found 11 ossuaries (bone boxes) one of those had an inscription "Alexander son of Simon" in greek.*
- *Are you pressed to carry the cross? How big is that cross? It's big enough.*

Mar 15:22 **4) Jesus Crucified** vs 22-41

Then they *brought Him to the place **Golgotha**, which is translated, Place of a Skull.

- *Golgotha (Hebrew) or Calvary (Latin) = skull*
- *Crucifixion was done by the Phoenicians & the Persians. The Romans adopted this as a form of punishment for thieves & robbers & sedition, and it was illegal to crucify a Roman citizen.*

Mar 15:23 They tried to give Him wine **mixed with myrrh**; but He did not take it.

- *Wine & Myrrh was given as a drug to block some of the pain so they could hang longer.*
- *Jewish tradition from Proverbs 31:6 "Give strong drink to him who is perishing.*
- *Jesus felt all the pain and sorrow of our sin. He refused the mixture.*

Mar 15:24 And they *crucified Him, and ***divided up His garments** among themselves, casting lots for them {to decide} what each man should take.

Mar 15:25 It was the third hour when they crucified Him.

- *3^d hour is 9:00 AM*
- *Part of the humiliation of the cross was that the victim was crucified naked. It is not known if they were completely naked or stripped to a loin cloth.*
- *What was it like to be crucified?*

The victim's back was first torn open by the scourging, then the clotting blood was ripped open again when the clothes were torn off the victim. When he was thrown to the ground to fix his hands to the crossbeam, the wounds were torn open again and contaminated with dirt. Then, as he hung on the cross each breath made the painful wounds on the back scrape against the rough wood of the upright beam.

When the nail was driven through the wrists, it severed the large median nerve going to the hand. This stimulated nerve produced excruciating bolts of fiery pain in both arms, and could result in a claw-like grip in the victim's hands.

Beyond the excruciating pain, crucifixion made it painful to simply breathe. The weight of the body pulling down on the arms and shoulders made it feel like you could breathe in but not out. The lack of oxygen led to severe muscle cramps, which made it even harder to breathe. To get a good breath, one had to push against the feet and flex the elbows, pulling from the shoulders. Putting the weight of the body on the nail-pierced feet produced searing pain, and flexing the elbows twisted the hands hanging on the nails. Lifting the body for a breath also scraped the open wounds on the back against the rough wooden post. Each effort to get a proper breath was agonizing, exhausting, and led to a quicker death.

"Not uncommonly, insects would light upon or burrow into the open wounds or the eyes, ears, and nose of the dying and helpless victim, and birds of prey would tear at these sites. Moreover, it was customary to leave the corpse on the cross to be devoured by predatory animals." (Edwards)

- *Death from crucifixion could come many different ways:*
 - *Acute shock from blood loss*
 - *Suffocation from being too exhausted to breathe*
 - *Dehydration*
 - *Heart attack, induced by stress*
 - *Heart rupture from congestive heart failure*

However, if the victim did not die quickly enough, his legs were broken and he was soon unable to breathe.

- Mar 15:26 **The inscription** of the charge against Him read, "THE KING OF THE JEWS."
- 2 fold purpose
 - First to Declare the Crime (this went further. To mock Jesus and the Jews)
 - Second to keep the Jews warned that this is the power of any so called king who rises up against Rome.
- Mar 15:27 They *crucified **two robbers** with Him, one on His right and one on His left.
- Mar 15:28 [And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with transgressors."]
- Fulfilled prophesy found in *Isaiah 53:12*
 - Jesus was mocked by those crucified with Him, yet one of those criminals came to a saving faith in Jesus (*Luke 23:39-43*)
 - Two thieves hung equal distance from Jesus. Yet after it all, One is with Him in paradise, and one is cast far away. What was the difference? It was the heart difference as to believing Jesus. (Focht)
- Mar 15:29 **Those passing by** were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, and saying, "Ha! You who {are} {going to} destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,
- Mar 15:30 save Yourself, and come down from the cross!"
- Mockers told Jesus to come down to save Himself. It is to His glory and our benefit that He did not.
 - *Romans 6:6* "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. "
- Mar 15:31 In the same way the **chief priests** also, along with the scribes, were mocking {Him} among themselves and saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself.
- Mar 15:32 "Let {this} Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!" Those who were crucified with Him were also insulting Him.
- Jesus had displayed anger before with the Pharisees, Sadducees, and scribes. There was an issue that drew that reaction. It was an obstacles being place before people to receive salvation, especially by those who should be preparing the way of salvation.
 - Here we see even temptation on the cross for Jesus to revile, Come down and show who is in charge.
 - Yet God is in charge.
- Mar 15:33 When the sixth hour came, darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour.
- 6th hour is 12 noon
 - 3 hours Longest recorded crucifixion 13 days
 - Darkness: Luke says it was over all the earth. This was not an eclipse. This feast was on a full moon and the position of moon and sun made this impossible for a solar eclipse.
- Mar 15:34 At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" which is translated, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"
- 9th hour is 3:00 PM
 - The Agony Christ endured on the Cross (*Psalms 22 the agony and the victory*)
 - *2 Corinthians 5:21* "God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him "
 - What a contrast to our lives when we separate ourselves from God by our sin. We rarely cry out in torment of the separation. If only we would realize the despair we are truly in when we separate ourselves from God.
- Mar 15:35 When some of the bystanders heard it, they {began} saying, "Behold, He is calling for Elijah."
- Mar 15:36 Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink, saying, "Let us see whether Elijah will come to take Him down."
- We have seen a man carrying Jesus' cross, We have seen selfish soldiers concerned of who wins clothes, 2 thieves one cursed one received, Passer bys & priests mocking and insulting. But here we see those close enough to hear but just distanced enough to not understand. (Eloi no Elijah)
 - Many in our churches live their Christian life in this place. Close but no cigar.
 - *Psalms 22* says "his tongue was stuck to the roof of His mouth"

- Mar 15:37 And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last.
- *John 19:30 says Jesus cried out " IT IS FINISHED"*
 - *Teleo to finish or to accomplish or to pay off*
- Mar 15:38 And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.
- *1st result = Free Access*
- Mar 15:39 When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"
- *2nd result = All peoples will see the Messiah for themselves*
- Mar 15:40 There were also {some} women looking on from a distance, among whom {were} Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Less and Joses, and Salome.
- Mar 15:41 When He was in Galilee, they used to follow Him and minister to Him; and {there were} many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.
- *The most faithful all the way to the end 3 Women*
- Mar 15:42 **5) Jesus Committed to Joseph** vs 42-47
When evening had already come, because it was the preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath,
- Mar 15:43 Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.
- *Joseph of Arimathea was a member of the council and yet was silent when Jesus as being falsely accused(Mark 15:1)*
 - *Yet now is fulfilling a role he was meant to. That no one else could.*
 - *Often times we stand by and watch others doing the Lord's work. Often times we condemn ourselves for it. But quite possibly there is a task that only we can do and the time is yet to come.*
 - *Incredible was the boldness and courage for Joseph of Arimathea to stand up and identify himself with Jesus*
 - *Many times the crucified were left on the crosses to rot or be eaten by wild animals.*
- Mar 15:44 Pilate wondered if He was dead by this time, and summoning the centurion, he questioned him as to whether He was already dead.
- Mar 15:45 And ascertaining this from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.
- Mar 15:46 Joseph bought a linen cloth, took Him down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.
- *Due to the coming Sabbath the body was hurriedly wrapped and placed in a tomb. Burial preparations (spices and burial traditions) were not carried out. The women would come after Sabbath to perform these rituals.*
- Mar 15:47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the {mother} of Joses were looking on {to see} where He was laid.

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