

Gleanings of Grace

Mark 15

Lesson 2

The 15th chapter of Mark takes us to the time just after Jesus' trial before the Jewish leaders, including the High Priest. As soon as their early morning meeting was over, and their verdict of blasphemy was pronounced, they delivered Jesus to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. Though they falsely accused Him, they insisted that Jesus' crimes made Him worthy of death. He freely admitted to the claims made against Him. He was the *Son of the Blessed* and He was the *King of the Jews*. Only the One who could claim those titles could redeem all those who come to Him.

OBSERVATION: Read Mark 15

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. There are several people present in this story. As you mark each one, remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them.

Key Words: *Jesus, God, religious rulers (chief priests, elders, scribes, council), Jews who were present (i.e. they, multitude), Pilate, soldiers, centurion, women (who followed Jesus), crucified, and the phrase the King of the Jews/Israel.*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used 6 times in Mark 15. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

4. We can see as we look at the characters, that each had a different perspective of the same event. Share some of your thoughts as you consider each one:

Jesus

The religious leaders and the Jews

Pilate

The soldiers

The centurion

Women who followed Jesus

Background:

1. Mark summarized his gospel with the words of Mark 10:45. Why did Mark say that Jesus came?
 - a. What was the means of this *ransom*? See Philippians 2:7,8
 - b. Why did He do this? See John 3:16
2. According to Romans 3:10,23 why do *all* people need this *ransom*?
3. Share a few thoughts about when you realized you needed Jesus to *ransom* you.
4. Read Mark 14:1,10-11,43-50,53-65 and list the events that preceded Mark 15, Jesus facing Pilate, the Roman governor of Judah.

Read Mark 15:1-15 – Jesus Before Pilate

1. During His time before the religious leaders in Mark 14 and Pilate in Mark 15, Jesus was asked two questions regarding His identity. What were they?

Mark 14:61

Mark 15:2

- a. What was Jesus' answer? (Mark 14:62, Mark 15:2)
- b. John amplified on Jesus' answers to His accusers and His judge. Summarize Jesus' statements that John added that Jesus spoke to:
the religious rulers (John 18:20-23)

Pilate (John 18:34-37)

- 1.) Those "interviewing" Jesus thought they had power over His life. How does Jesus' statement in John 10:17,18 counter this?
- 2.) Record Pilate's question to Jesus in John 18:38
 - a.) Record Jesus' statement regarding truth in John 14:6.
 - b.) Record John's observation in 1 John 5:20
 - i.) How do you know you are *in Him who is true*?
2. *Now at the feast he (Pilate) was accustomed to releasing one prisoner to them, whomever they requested (Mark 15:6). ...the chief priests stirred up the crowd, so that he should rather release Barabbas to them (Mark 15:11). Who was Barabbas? See Mark 15:7*
 - a. Pilate knew the motive of the hearts of the *chief priests*. What was it? Verse 10
 - b. Read the compromising statement reflecting Pilate's response in verse 15. Although Pilate knew their motive, he chose to *gratify the crowd*. What are your thoughts?

Read Mark 15:16-20 – Jesus Before the Soldiers

1. Pilate delivered Jesus to the soldiers. Using Mark 15:16-20, list the atrocities they committed against Him.

2. What do you think the soldiers had heard about Jesus?

3. According to 1 Peter 2:21, *Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps*: Using 1 Peter 2: 22,23 record His example.
 - a. Knowing how much Jesus was *reviled* and *suffered*, in what ways are you challenged to apply this in your life?

Read Mark 15:21-39 – Jesus on the Cross

1. From the following verses, share one thing, statement, or action that touched your heart and explain why.

Mark 15:21-26

Mark 15:27-32

2. *Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour* (Mark 15:33). During this period of time, Jesus uttered seven statements. What were they?

Luke 23:34

Luke 23:43

John 19:26,27

Mark 15:34

John 19:28

John 19:30

Luke 23:46

3. After Jesus cried out *It is finished, He breathed His last and committed His spirit into the Father's hands*. According to Mark 15:38, what happened next?
 - a. According to Exodus 26:33, what was the purpose of the *veil*?
 - 1.) There is no longer a partition between man and God. What privilege do we now have? Hebrews 4:16
 - a.) What do you appreciate about this privilege?
 - b.) Why do you sometimes still stand on “the other side of the veil”, not taking advantage of this privilege?
 - b. The veil was torn *from top to bottom*. What might the significance of this be?
4. What was the centurion's response to his experience of watching how Jesus' handled those hours? Verse 39
 - a. If you were that centurion, what do you think would have convinced you?
 - 1.) What did convince you that Jesus is *truly the Son of God*?

Read Mark 15:40-47 – Jesus in the Grave

1. *Many women who followed Jesus* witnessed His crucifixion. Identify two of them using Luke 8:2,3.
 - a. According to Mark 15:41, these women *ministered to Jesus when He was in Galilee*. According to the Luke 8:3, what did they do?
 - b. What are ways that you might *minister to* (serve) Jesus today?

2. What happened that *evening*? Mark 15:42,43
 - a. Read John 19:38-42 and record John's insight into why Joseph needed to *take courage*.
 - b. How are you personally challenged by this?
3. Pilate, after *marveling that Jesus had been dead for some time*, granted permission to Joseph of Arimathea to bury Jesus. Using verse 46, thoughtfully describe what Joseph did.
 - a. What thoughts do you think perplexed him as he took Jesus' body and buried it?
4. The chapter closes recording that two of the women *observed where He was laid*. Using Mark 16:1-11, what did they discover when they returned Sunday morning?
 - a. Share a few ways the discovery of that morning has changed your life.

REVIEW: Read Mark 15

1. What was the most personally touching part of Mark 15?

*But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth,
who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here.
See the place where they laid Him.*

- Mark 16:6

Observation Worksheet

Mark 15

Immediately, in the morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council; and they bound Jesus, led Him away, and delivered Him to Pilate. ² Then Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered and said to him, "It is as you say." ³ And the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing. ⁴ Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, "Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You!" ⁵ But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marveled. ⁶ Now at the feast he was accustomed to releasing one prisoner to them, whomever they requested. ⁷ And there was one named Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder in the rebellion. ⁸ Then the multitude, crying aloud, began to ask him to do just as he had always done for them. ⁹ But Pilate answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰ For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd, so that he should rather release Barabbas to them. ¹² Pilate answered and said to them again, "What then do you want me to do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³ So they cried out again, "Crucify Him!" ¹⁴ Then Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, "Crucify Him!" ¹⁵ So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to be crucified. ¹⁶ Then the soldiers led Him away into the hall called Praetorium, and they called together the whole garrison. ¹⁷ And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His head, ¹⁸ and began to salute Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ Then they struck Him on the head with a reed and spat on Him; and bowing the knee, they worshiped Him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him. ²¹ Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross. ²² And they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull. ²³ Then they gave Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but He did not take it. ²⁴ And when they crucified Him, they divided His garments, casting lots for them to determine what every man should take. ²⁵ Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him. ²⁶ And the inscription of His accusation was written above: THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁷ With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. ²⁸ So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with the transgressors." ²⁹ And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ save Yourself, and come down from the cross!"

³¹ Likewise the chief priests also, mocking among themselves with the scribes, said, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Even those who were crucified with Him reviled Him. ³³ Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" ³⁵ Some of those who stood by, when they heard that, said, "Look, He is calling for Elijah!" ³⁶ Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink, saying, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down." ³⁷ And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last. ³⁸ Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!" ⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, ⁴¹ who also followed Him and ministered to Him when He was in Galilee, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem. ⁴² Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷ And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where He was laid.