

LESSON 6

JESUS TRIED AND CRUCIFIED

Scripture Text: Mark 15:1-39

In this lesson today we once again relate to the happening in history that is so great it is beyond our comprehension, and yet so simple that even children may understand when told how great God's love is for all mankind.

The few hours between Christ's victory in Gethsemane and this lesson's events held the trial of Jesus, the denial of Peter, the release of Barabbas, and the cruel actions by the soldiers. Jesus' acceptance of it all showed more strength than to have fought back. No fault was found in Jesus. It was sin that crucified Him, your sin and mine. Jesus took our place. It takes love to die for good people, but greater love to die for sinners and enemies. All three courts where Jesus appeared allowed their Prisoner to be abused contrary to their laws. What faces a land whose courts become corrupted?



MEMORY VERSE: *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* *Romans 5:8*

Jesus Condemned

Mark 15:1-21 In the morning . . . bound Jesus . . . delivered him to Pilate, the Roman governor. It had been night when Caiaphas and his court tried Jesus and condemned Him to death. Therefore, **in the morning**, the group went to Pilate, accused Jesus, and asked for His death. Jesus gave no answer, even though Jewish law had no authority to put Him to death. **Pilate marvelled** that Jesus answered nothing. Because Jesus was a Galilean, Pilate sent Him to King Herod who found no reason to condemn Him and, after mocking Him, sent Him back (Luke 23:6-11). Pilate found no fault in Jesus and desired to release Him. His human thinking led him to believe that the people would rather have Jesus released than Barabbas. How wrong he was! **Release Barabbas . . . Crucify . . . the King of the Jews.** The people, led by the chief religious persons of the land, clamored for Jesus to die. They chose Barabbas instead of Jesus to be released at the Passover time. Is the world much different in their choice in our day? Pilate yielded, scourged Jesus, and gave Him to be crucified. Pilate was deceived in his heart to believe that a pan of water could wash away the guilt of his action (Matthew 27:24).

The soldiers considered the Prisoner fair prey for their degenerate "fun." They used a purple robe, crown of thorns, and a reed to ridicule His claim to being King. They saluted and bowed in fun. They insulted, spit upon, and struck Him. Through it all, Jesus made no resistance. Then they **led him out to crucify him.**

Jesus Crucified

Mark 15:22-32 They bring him unto . . . Golgotha. Now sin had its full way. **They gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh.** It would be of no help, so He refused it. **Crucified him**—they nailed him to the Cross. **Parted his garments**—the soldiers divided His clothes (Psalm 22:18). Crucifixion meant the worst of human savagery inflicting the most intense human suffering. **THE KING OF THE JEWS**—did Pilate believe it true? (See John

18:33-39; 19:19-22.) **With him they crucify two thieves**—treated as one of them. The Scripture in Isaiah 53:12 was fulfilled. **Railed on him, wagging their heads . . .** They used sarcastic, taunting remarks emphasized by gestures. **Ah, thou that destroyest the temple . . .** Jesus had not said *the* temple but *this* temple, meaning His body (John 2:18-21). **Save thyself**—they spoke three days too soon. Jesus was taking their place, but they did not know it. Why did He take it? He did not have to. He did it to save those who did not deserve it but needed it. It is of no use unless we believe and accept Him. Sin, yours and mine and all mankind's, brought Jesus to the Cross. These people did not know that what they asked was the destruction of their only chance of salvation. The shame of the Cross does not lay on Christ but on the men who nailed Him there. **Chief priests mocking said . . . He saved others; himself he cannot save.** They little knew the truth they spoke. He knew He could not save both and had sealed His choice the night before. **Let Christ . . . descend . . . that we may see and believe.** Belief does not come from seeing but by believing.

The Death of Jesus

Mark 15:33-39 Sixth hour . . . darkness . . . until the ninth hour. This assault of evil against righteousness, against God, was of such tragic proportion that God darkened the sun for three hours. Spiritual darkness reigned temporarily. One of the dying thieves **reviled** Jesus. But one, repenting, was the first to receive the salvation Jesus was dying to provide. **My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?** The sins of the whole world that Jesus bore separated Him from His Father. That is the nature of sin (Isaiah 59:2). Perhaps this was the lowest point in Jesus' whole life. Satan and hell were doing their worst. Jesus was doing His best. **Jesus cried with a loud voice.** In John 19:30 Jesus said, **It is finished.** The whole plan of salvation was finished. Here was a cry of victory, a shout of triumph. Thank God! He commended His spirit to His Father, **and gave up the ghost**—died.

At the same time **the veil of the temple was rent in twain.** This was the curtain which divided the holy place from the holiest place. As the veil opened the way into the holiest place of the temple, so Christ's death opened the way to God (Hebrews 10:19-20). A hand from Heaven did it. Those looking on knew these were no ordinary events. No longer was man held off from God with a priest representing him once a year. Now each saint is a priest, free to come all the way to God through the Holy Spirit's indwelling. If you do not have this experience, it is waiting for you. To the Christian, death is not a dead-end street; it is a triumphal door through which he may pass on to the joys of an eternal home. **Truly this man was the Son of God**—the centurion believed.

JUST A THOUGHT

Human nature has not improved so very much since the day of the Cross. Shameful motives still cause men to crucify our Lord afresh daily.