

Introduction: Pg. \_\_\_\_

Thank the Kids. Celebrate. Welcome Guests (quickly - point to app). Mark 15...

One of the beauties of Advent, when we celebrate the coming of Christ, is the sheer wonder and awe it produces. Angelic messengers bearing good news, a teenage girl hearing she will birth the Savior of humanity, wise men travel hundreds of miles to greet this newborn King. Even as our Redemption Kids shared this morning, we can hardly believe our ears:

- A King - born in a stable;
- He's righteous - but shockingly humble;
- A king people expected to rule through earthly power, a king expected to take the life of his enemies - but in reality, he's a King who gives his life for his enemies that all might experience his peace.

How would he do it? This baby who was born a King is the King who was born to die.

### **"The King Born to Die"**

#### **Mark 15:1-41**

Think about this: everyone who is born *will die*. This is a fact of life. Jesus was born to *die*. This was his mission!

The wonder of Christmas stands alone, and yet, it is only truly understood when we consider it in light of the entirety of Jesus' life. In other words, we won't truly understand the wonder of his birth, until we are amazed by the significance of his death.

My hope for you this morning is that you will . . .

#### **The Point: Be amazed by King Jesus who died as the Son of God & Savior of the World.**

As we come to Mark 15, the sun is rising Friday morning. Jesus has been betrayed, unjustly arrested, abandoned, falsely accused, beaten, mocked, spat on, and denied. We now come to the day of his death.

#### **Mark 15:1-41 (text displayed)**

In Mark 15, we see three magnificent truths: Jesus fulfilled God's plan, Jesus suffered in our place, Jesus opened the door for us to worship God. All of these must amaze us!

#### **1. Be amazed by King Jesus fulfilling God's plan in his death. (1-41)**

Mark's shows the complex answer to the simple question: Who killed Jesus? Throughout this chapter we see the interplay between Jewish action and Roman authority.

- Verse 1 show us the Jews were moving quickly. Why? Pilate, the Roman Governor with jurisdiction over Jerusalem, only heard cases from roughly 6am to 9am, and they wanted Jesus executed before sunset, before Sabbath began.
- In order to make their case, verse 4 tells says they brought "many charges," accusing Jesus of many things. The most serious included...
  - A plot to destroy the temple.
  - Blasphemy (which meant nothing to Pilate as a pluralistic Roman), and the one that could mean everything to Pilate:
  - That Jesus claimed to be the King of the Jews. If true, this would amount to treason against Rome.
- Pilate addressed this most concerning charge in verse 2: "Are you the King of the Jews?"
- Jesus replied: "You have said so." Think about what Jesus is doing here before Pilate...
  - His response is neither a strong affirmation, nor a strong denial. He distances himself from the question without denying his title as King.
  - He implies that he is King but not the kind of king that is a threat to Rome. He tells Pilate in John 18:36, "My kingdom is not of this world." HA!
- Pilate, clearly astonished, asks again in verse 4: "Have you no answer to make?"
- Verse 5 says, "But [he] made no further answer."

Once again we see the fulfillment of Isaiah 53:7, "**He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.**" (Isaiah 53:7)

Who killed Jesus?

While Pilate had the authority and ultimately delivered Jesus to be crucified in verse 15, verses 9, 12, & 14 show Pilate trying to release Jesus.

Verse 10 tells us Pilate perceived the Jews conspired against Jesus out of envy. Let that be a warning to us to watch out for the insidious presence of envy in our own hearts. May we hate and eradicate the sin from our own hearts that helped nail Jesus to the cross.

Yes, it was the Jews. Yes, it was the Romans, but there is more.

#### Jesus as the fulfillment of God's Plan

As we see in Jesus' silence, he willingly accepted condemnation. He willingly embraced crucifixion, because this was his mission all along.

- In the key verse of Mark's Gospel, Jesus said: "the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)
- Three times in John 10, Jesus says, "I lay down my life for the sheep."

But if we back up to Isaiah 53:10, 700 years before Jesus came into the world, it says: "Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him..."

If every promise of God were a road, all roads lead to the city of Jesus.

- We see this in his arrival. The birth of Jesus was prophesied with great specificity. Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14, check); his name will be called Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14 again, check). Born of the line of David (Isaiah 9:6, check). Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2, check).
- But now we see this in his departure.

**"for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink." (Psalm 69:21). Fulfilled in Mark 15:23**

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**"they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." (Psalm 22:18). Fulfilled in Mark 15:24**

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**"he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12). Fulfilled in Mark 15:27**

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**"All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; 'He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!'" (Psalm 22:7-8). Fulfilled in Mark 15:29-32**

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**"a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet." (Psalm 22:16). Fulfilled in Mark 15:24**

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**"And on that day," declares the Lord God, 'I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight.'" (Amos 8:9). Fulfilled in Mark 15:33**

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**"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning." (Psalm 22:1). Fulfilled in Mark 15:34**

Who Killed Jesus? Jesus willingly gave his life as the fulfillment of the Father's plan.

T: Why did he do it? That question leads us to the second point of amazement!

## 2. Be amazed by King Jesus suffering in our place as the forsaken Son of God. (6-15; 33-39)

### Physical Suffering

The cross was meant to horrify people, it was designed to inflict maximum torture and physical suffering. We should feel the gravity and shock of these final moments of the life of Christ.

The Roman orator Cicero famously wrote: **“The very word ‘cross’ should be far removed not only from the person of a Roman citizen but from his thoughts, his eyes, and his ears.”** *Speech before Roman Citizens on Behalf of Gaius Rabirius*

Before a criminal was nailed to the cross, they first experienced scourging. Verse 15 says, “So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd...”

Scourging was a judicial penalty, consisting of a severe lashing with a leather whip that had pieces of metal and bone on its ends. Jesus was stripped and beaten until his back and body was torn to shreds. William Lane says, “No maximum number of strokes was prescribed by Roman law, and men condemned to [scourging] frequently collapsed and died.”

Before the soldiers led Jesus away to be crucified, they mocked him. Verses 16-19 tell us their mocking centered around the accusation of Jesus being King.

- Verse 17, they cloth him in a purple cloak and dress a crown of thorns on his head.
- Verse 18, they salute him and mock him, saying, “Hail, King fo the Jews!”
- Then in verse 19, they begin to strike his head, while spitting on him and kneeling down in homage before him, as if to say, “Look at the helpless king.”

### Spiritual suffering

But all of the physical suffering, pales in comparison to the *emotional and spiritual suffering* Jesus would face on the cross.

Consider the emotional humiliation Jesus endured.

- It is likely Jesus was crucified naked (nay-keed). Verse 24.
- It is clear he died between two criminals. Verse 27. The man who only did good his entire life dies for crimes he did not commit.
- And then we see those in the crowd, mock him. Verses 29-32.

But the greatest emotional pain stemmed from the spiritual suffering Jesus endured. As he hung there, struggling to breath - experiencing death by suffocation, with nails in his hands and feet, verse 34 tells us: “And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Jesus, first abandoned by his closest followers, is now abandoned by his very own Father.

- This cry tells us why Jesus went to the cross. On the cross, Jesus took on the just penalty for our sin.
- 1 Peter 2:24 tells us: “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree.” Why did he do it? “that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”
- 1 Peter 3:18 says, **“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God . . .” (1 Peter 3:18)**
- In these moments, as Jesus takes on the penalty for our sin and bears the wrath of God in our place, God the Father, in his perfect holiness, cannot look on evil for which his Son is suffering.

Jesus is forsaken. Jesus, God the Son, for the first time in his eternal relationship with God the Father, is separated and dies alone!

He did this for you and me! On the cross, Jesus died as our substitute. **Be amazed by King Jesus suffering in our place as the forsaken Son of God.**

Just as the murderer and insurrectionist Barabbas went free because the crowd chose Jesus, so we now can experience freedom because Jesus took the fall for us!

The Son of God died that we might become sons and daughters of God.

Jesus died our death that we might live his life.

- We get the joy because he took the shame.
- We get the peace because he endured the chaos.
- We get reconciliation because he experienced separation.

T: Jesus was forsaken so that we could be welcomed home, which leads us to our third encouragement.

### 3. Be amazed by King Jesus opening the door for us to worship God. (37-39)

Death of Jesus was marked by darkness. Look back at verse 33: "And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour."

At the ninth hour, at 3pm Jesus cried out his cry of forsakenness. Then, moments later, verse 37 says, "And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last."

- This is almost certainly the same cry recorded in John 19:30 - One word in the Greek. Three words in English: *tetelestai* - "IT IS FINISHED!"
- What was finished? The work of atonement - Jesus death covers over our sin as the sacrificial Lamb.
- What was finished? The work of salvation is done. "The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost." (Luke 19:10)
- What was finished? The plans of the evil one to keep us separated from God forever. "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil." (1 John 3:8)
- What was finished? God's grand plan of redemption!

#### Revelation 5 (1-14 or 9-14)

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup> And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" <sup>3</sup> And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, <sup>4</sup> and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. <sup>5</sup> And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

<sup>6</sup> And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup> And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. <sup>8</sup> And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
<sup>10</sup> and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,  
and they shall reign on the earth."

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing!"

<sup>13</sup> And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

<sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

What does this mean for us? So many things, but what better news do we have than what we see contained in verse 38?

"And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom."

- This refers to the Most Holy Place in the Temple or the Holy of Holies. It represented the very presence of God, where his glory was revealed.
- Only the High Priest went in once a year to offer a sacrifice on behalf of the people.
- But now, because of Jesus, everyone who believes in his name has access to enter into the very presence of God.
- Now, because of Jesus, God has opened wide his arms to you and welcomes you in!!

Our response must be worship! Our response must be the pursuit of intimacy with God! Our response must be love for him and love for one another!

*Conclusion:*

**“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:19-25)**

Let us draw near. Let us love one another.

Pray into 2 Corinthians 8:9