

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

April 21, 2019 - Easter

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Saves

Scripture Passage: Mark 15:27-39

The Point: Jesus' death bridges the gap between God and humanity caused by our sin.

I. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- A. When we read, hear about or see the crucifixion of Christ we should be shaken. Yes it was a horrible scene but it is the fact that He took my place and your place!
- B. Without valid evidence against Jesus, Jewish leaders bribed false witnesses to speak against Him and charge Him with blasphemy (14:53-65).
- C. Peter had followed the arresting mob to the high priest's home and waited outside in the courtyard, mingling with the household servants (14:66-72).
- D. Jesus was interrogated and condemned by Pilate, the governor of Judea (15:1-15).
- E. Jesus was mocked and beaten prior to His crucifixion (15:16-20).
- F. Roman soldiers led Jesus to Golgotha to be crucified. They forced a man to carry Jesus' cross (15:21-23).

II. CRUCIFIED (Mark 15:27)

- A. The Jewish religious/political leaders wanted Jesus out of the way. They felt threatened by His authority and reputation with the people. Having pressured Pilate the governor into condemning Jesus, the stage was set for Jesus' death.
- B. By the time Jesus reached the place of execution, He had suffered greatly.
- C. In positioning Jesus in the middle of these two crosses was meant to demean Jesus as nothing more than a despised, good-for-nothing lawbreaker.
- D. The Romans had perfected the use of crucifixion as a means of execution.
 - 1. It was a slow, sure death to torture the victim in the process and deter future lawbreakers.
 - 2. Many victims survived several days on the cross, finally succumbing to exhaustion and asphyxiation.

III. MOCKED (Mark 15:29-32)

- A. These were the same people that just a few days earlier had held a parade to honor Jesus.
- B. They purposefully went to see and mock Jesus.
- C. "yelling & shaking" = ongoing actions, they didn't stop.
- D. They worshipped the temple more than the God of it (v.29).
- E. The mockers clearly did not expect Jesus to comply with this challenge (v.30).
- F. The Jewish religious/political leaders said that the previous miracles were just coincidentally since He couldn't save Himself (v.31).
- G. Calling Jesus "Messiah" was them questioning what He had claimed (v.32).

IV. FORSAKEN (Mark 15:33-36)

- A. The absence of light was a supernatural act of God in reaction to what was happening at the cross (v.33).
- B. Jesus' cry emphasizes that the sins of the world—past, present, and future—were placed on Him. He took on Himself the full wrath deserved by sinners and the Father turned away from looking upon the scene (v.34).
- C. “those standing there” = the crowd that had been insulting Jesus, they continued to misunderstand that Jesus was the Messiah (v.35).
 - 1. Many Jews believed that the Old Testament prophet Elijah would come to life again to prepare for the Messiah's appearance.
- D. “sour wine” = another form of torture, at first tasted good but in the end did more to cause thirst (v.36).
 - 1. See note above about Elijah, the words were another form of mockery.

V. VICTORIOUS (Mark 15:37-39)

- A. As Jesus approached His final moments of life, He let out a loud cry (v.37).
 - 1. Luke records that Jesus' final words on the cross were “Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit” (Luke 23:46).
 - 2. He died. With that final breath Jesus completed His work of atonement for sinners.
 - 3. His resurrection lay ahead, but His sacrifice for our sins was complete.
- B. “curtain of the temple” = represented the separation between sinful humanity and Holy God (v.38).
 - 1. “torn in two from top to bottom” No human could accomplish this feat. It is imagery that God tore aside the separation between Him and sinful humanity.
- C. The Roman soldiers that crucified Jesus was led by a centurion (v.39).
 - 1. He was standing in front of Jesus.
 - 2. He had a limited understanding of who Jesus was, but what he saw and heard of Jesus during the crucifixion proved that Jesus was the Son of God.

VI. CONCLUSION & APPLICATION

- A. Jesus willingly faced death on our behalf.
- B. Jesus ignored challenges to His identity and power so He could provide our salvation.
- C. Jesus endured God's wrath as our sin-bearer.
- D. Jesus' death gives all who believe in Him access to the Father.
- E. Teaching Ideas
 - 1. Create Interest
 - a. Ask the group to share their favorite memories of Easter.
 - 2. Closing Challenge
 - a. This is a great opportunity to share the story of Easter and offer an invitation for those that have never followed Jesus to do so.

F. Don't Forget!!!

1. Saves & Mark 15:27-39

2. Jesus' death bridges the gap between God and humanity caused by our sin.

Dr. Smith serves as the lead state missionary with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and leads the Sunday School, Small Groups, Discipleship and Faith Development ministries. Visit their website at gabaptist.org/groups for more information and other resources to aid your class, group or ministry. You can also connect with Dr. Smith at facebook.com/GABaptistGroups. Dr. Smith is available for conferences or other speaking opportunities and can be contacted at tsmith@gabaptist.org.