

## The PATH, August 26-September 1, 2018

### **MONDAY** - Read Mark 15:1-5

We probably read through Mark 15 so quickly that it doesn't jump out at us, but when we take time to really dive into it, it is a fascinating passage of Scripture. Jesus is on trial and in the midst of the trial before Pilate, Pilate is amazed. Pilate has seen just about everything, he was a ruler, and was probably accustomed to most things, yet he was amazed by Jesus. He was amazed that He didn't try to defend Himself, He was amazed by His calmness, He was simply amazed by Jesus, and I imagine that if we would have been there that day we would have been as well. He is on trial, with crucifixion looming around the corner and yet He has a resolve and a calmness within Himself. Pilate was wondering how is this possible? The answer because He is doing the will of the Father, He is glorifying the Father and He knows that the Father is with Him. He stands as a good example for us doesn't He? We too when faced with the daunting circumstances of life, should have a peace and a resolve because God Himself is with us. Yet what Jesus did goes beyond just being an example for us, He went to the cross and died for us. He took our place. He loved us that much, that was the will of the Father, and that was how the Father was glorified. So shouldn't we be like Pilate? Shouldn't we also be amazed? Pilate was amazed by Jesus, we should be as well.

### **TUESDAY** - Read Mark 15:6-15

Because Pilate was fascinated and amazed he probably wanted the Jewish people to ask for Jesus to be released. He didn't want to have Him crucified. Surely when the time comes they will ask for Jesus to be released. He released one prisoner every year and this year he gave the people a choice, either Barabbas who was a murderer, or Jesus. Surely they would pick Jesus. After all just a few days earlier the crowd had welcomed Jesus into town as a King, so certainly now they would set Him free. Pilate was probably amazed again as the people screamed for Barrabas and screamed even that much louder for Jesus to be crucified. They wanted Him crowned King a few days ago, and now they wanted Him killed. They turned that quickly. They went from appearing to follow Jesus to wanting nothing to do with Him. Their hearts were that filled with sin. Ours can be as well can't they? Not that we would turn away and shout crucify Him crucify Him, but that we would turn from Him and embrace the things and the sins of the this world. After all it was those sins that put Him on the cross and yet sometimes we run to them instead of running to Him. Thomas Watson wrote many years ago, "the sight of Christ's bleeding body should incense us against sin.....Let not that be our joy, which made Christ a man of sorrow." In other words let us not turn from Him to the things of the world. Let us not find joy in sin, let us stand strong against it, and truly crown Him King of our lives.

### **WEDNESDAY** - Read Mark 15:16-20

There is something within us that hates being made fun of, we hate to be mocked. Mark tells us very directly however that on the way to the cross, Jesus was mocked. They put purple on Him

to mock Him for claiming to be a King, then to add to the cruelty they put a crown of thorns on Him, and saluted Him yelling, "Hail, King of the Jews." They spat on Him and pretended to bow before Him. It is painful to even read. How could they do that how could they be so cruel? It's painful to read but it's also amazing to read, because what did Jesus do? Nothing! He didn't respond in any way. He just simply allowed Himself to be led away to the cross. Why? Again because He was trusting in the plan of God and because He loved even the people who were doing these things to Him. He loved us that much. That is an amazing thought and certainly an amazing love. Here we see the love of God on display, He loved us enough to go through this for us. But it is not just the love of God that we see here, it is also a pointing forward to the majesty, power, and holiness of God. The soldiers mock Jesus by bowing before Him, but one day we are told "every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord." They mocked Him then, but one day the mocking will be over, and one day all of us will bow before Him as the rightful King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Pray for those today who haven't trusted Jesus. Pray for the lost to be found, so that they might truly know Him now.

#### **THURSDAY** - Read Mark 15:21-32

More mocking, more pain, the horror of the crucifixion. Jesus was hurting, Jesus was in agony. Jesus was thirsty and yet when they offer Him something to drink He doesn't take it, no He chooses to bear the full force of the wrath of the Father. For you see that is precisely what Jesus is doing here, yes the people are mocking Him, and crucifying Him, but it is the wrath of the Father being poured out on Him. Why would the Father pour His wrath out on the Son? Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 5:31, "He made Him who knew no sin to become sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." Jesus on the cross became sin, and now the full force of the wrath of the Father was poured out on sin. It is horrible and wonderful to think about at the same time. Horrible to see the agony, but wonderful to realize He did that for us. He took our place. Propitiation is a word that we don't use at all and its a word that seems odd to even say, but it is a beautiful word because it tells us precisely what Jesus did, "He took the wrath of the Father for me." How do we respond? In amazement, in love, and in trust, as we follow Him, our Savior and our Lord.

#### **FRIDAY** - Read Mark 15:33-41.

Mark captures the death of Jesus in these verses, and He records for us some of Jesus' last words from the cross, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani," which means "My God, My God why have you forsaken me?" Forsaken. Jesus was forsaken so you and I don't have to be. This is the fulfillment of prophecy from the book of Psalms, Jesus is forsaken. Somehow for just a moment, the Father turns His back on the Son. Forsaken, so we don't have to be. Our sin makes God turn from us, our sin makes us forsaken, yet if we are covered by the blood of Jesus, if we are forgiven by Him, then we are cleansed and we no longer have to be forsaken. It is amazing to consider what Jesus has done for us on the cross. Because of His love and sacrifice, because He was forsaken you and I don't have to be. Instead we can embrace the promise, "I will never leave you nor FORSAKE you." That is the promise of the love of God and the faithfulness of God all because of what Jesus did on the cross.