“MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”

Mark 15:1–41

Key Verse: 15:34

1. What were the plans of the religious authorities? (1) How did God overrule their plans? (Ac4:25–28) How did this fulfill what Jesus had predicted? (8:31; 12:7–11)
2. What did Pilate ask? (2a) Why was he asking this? How did Jesus respond? (2b) Why did he answer like this? What were the chief priests doing, and why? (3) What did Pilate again ask? (4) What did Jesus do, and why was Pilate so amazed? (5; Isa53:7)
3. What was the Passover custom? (6) Who was Barabbas? (7) What did the crowd do? (8) What did Pilate ask of the crowd, and what did he know? (9,10) What unexpected thing happened? (11) Why was this so wrong? (Ac3:14) How and why did Pilate try to save Jesus? (12–14a) Why did he give in to the crowd? (13,14b,15a)
4. What did Pilate have done to Jesus? (15b) What did it mean to be flogged? Where did the soldiers take Jesus, what did they do to him there, and why? (16–20) How did it fulfill what Jesus had predicted, as well as prophecies? (10:33b,34; Ps22:6–8; Isa50:6)
5. What did the soldiers force Simon of Cyrene to do, and why? (21) Where did they bring Jesus, what did they first offer him there, and why? (22,23) What was crucifixion like? (24a) How was prophecy fulfilled (24b; cf. Ps22:18), and what does their casting lots reveal about those crucifying Jesus?
6. What time was it? (25) What was the written notice of the charge against Jesus? (26) Why was this the only charge they could come up with against Jesus? (14:55,56; 15:12–14) What were the Romans intending by this notice? Why is crucified Jesus worthy to be the true King of all people, and what does it mean to accept this? (Rev5:9,12)
7. What was the purpose of crucifying him between two rebels? (27) What did passersby do? (28,29) How did they twist Jesus’ own words? (Jn2:19) How did the chief priests and teachers of the law also mock him? (30,31) How is Jesus who saved others but not himself our example? How else did they mock and insult him? (32)
8. What happened at noon, and how might it have affected people? (33) Read verse 34; compare with Psalm 22:1. Why did this have to happen to Jesus? (Isa59:2; Col1:21; 2Co5:21a) Think about what it means to be “forsaken” by God. How might Mark’s audience in Rome have felt forsaken? How do Jesus’ words speak to us today?
9. How did people misunderstand Jesus’ cry? (35,36) Describe Jesus’ death (37). What happened at that moment, and what does it mean? (38; Heb10:19,20) What was a centurion, what did this one confess, and why? (39)
10. Who were the women there, why did they remain to the end, and why is this important? (40,41) What can we learn from them?