

Mark Chapter Fifteen (Part Two) – Teaching Notes

Introduction: A key idea in Mark is that Jesus is the servant of God. Today, we hope to discuss the death of Jesus.

Body:

Read Mark 15:33-41

6. Death of Jesus. From 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Jesus suffered. From 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m., darkness covers the area. At 3:00 p.m., we hear the saying "My God, My God, why has Thou forsaken Me?" Some thought that Jesus was calling for Elijah to come and see about Him. Jesus died. The curtain/veil in the Temple is torn from the top to the bottom. There are some women mentioned who watched Jesus from a distance.

Applications –

- **Forsaken for a purpose.** Notice in vs. 34 that Jesus talks about being forsaken by God. We may never fully understand what these words mean. The idea of quoting Psalms 22, which ends in victory seems nice, but the accuracy of such is suspect. What we do know is that Jesus was in severe pain because of our sins. *Let's live a life that demonstrates that His suffering was not in vain.* Such living should be known for loving God, ourselves, and others.

- **Torn curtain.** Notice in vs. 38 that the curtain is torn from the top to the bottom. This seems to suggest that God has opened the way from the "holy of holies" to the common area, from the special presence of God to where common people were. The death of Jesus bridged the gap between holy God and sinful humanity for those who would accept Christ as savior by faith. *Let's make sure that we are saved and helping others get saved.* The torn curtain still doesn't help those who will not accept Christ as savior by faith. Woe unto those who keep trying to tear or go behind the the curtain by way of their own good works.

- **Late recognition.** Notice in vs. 39 the soldiers commented about Jesus was the Son of God. There are too many people who wait until something really bad or dramatic happens, before they really get a better understanding of who Jesus is and what God is doing. *Let's work on being in tuned with God's program, without waiting until someone dies.* The best way to know God and His will for our lives is to prayerfully study and obey His word with the support of others. Let's not wait until people die before we recognize what God is doing in their lives and before we tell them how much we appreciate them.

- **Untrustworthy people.** Notice in vss. 35, 40 that people cannot be trusted. The people in vs. 35 were wrong about the identity of Jesus. And even though some women were in the vicinity, they were distant (see vs. 40). When we take a stand for God, we cannot count on anyone else standing with us. *Let's make sure that we have the faith needed to take a stand for God by ourselves.* Let's try to support those who are taking stands for God, so they don't have to be by themselves.

Read Mark 15:42-47

7. Burial of Jesus. After Jesus died, Joseph of Arimathea (i.e., a religious man who awaited the coming of the Kingdom of God), came to request Jesus' body. After the confirmation of Jesus' quick death, the body was released to Joseph. Several ladies observed where Jesus body was laid, after it had been prepared for burial.

Applications –

- **Sabbath principle.** Notice in vs. 42 the mention of the Sabbath preparation. Even though Christians don't pay much attention to the original Sabbath, which is Saturday, we should honor a Sabbath principle. That is, we should make some weekly time to rest and worship. Furthermore, we should make preparations for such. Without preparation and planning, we may work from week to week and month to month. Not only is this unhealthy, but it is contrary to God's will (i.e., sin). *Let's honor a Sabbath principle.*

- **Public disciples.** Notice in vss. 43 that Joseph was apparently a secret disciple who stepped up after the death of Jesus to offer his tomb. On one hand, thank God Joseph did eventually step up. Many people never step up. But on the other hand, Joseph waited until death to move. *Let's work on being public disciples of Christ right now.* Stop waiting until bad things happen to do what God is calling you to do right now. Why wait until momma die to go to church? Go now, so she can see you.

- **Death preparation.** Notice in vss. 46 the caring for the dead body of Jesus. We all know that death is coming our way. We would do well to make sure that we have some life insurance (i.e., about \$10k for funeral expenses), will, living will, and gifts for the church. The most important spiritual matter is to make sure that you have accepted Christ as your savior by faith. *Let's make sure we have our death preparations in order.*

Notice in vss. 44 that Jesus died on time and without blemish. Some scholars have suggested that the braking of Jesus' bones would have spoiled His being a spotless lamb that was killed for us. Consequently, He died sooner than His enemies wanted Him to, so that He could remain our spotless lamb. It is amazing that even in death, Jesus is still focused on carrying out the Father's assignment to pay for our sins. *Let's honor the timely death of Jesus by obeying His will.* At the core of His will is to love God, ourselves, and others.

Conclusion: Let's work on being servants of God. God has much for those who obey His will.