

Refuge City Church — November 1, 2020
“The Gospel of Mark” (Mark 15:16-32)

Introduction

- **LAST WEEK** = We looked at the continued **Prosecution** and final **Pronouncement of Punishment**.
- **TODAY** = **The Parody** [soldiers dress up and mock Jesus], **Parade** [Jesus led out to be crucified], and final **Persecution** of Jesus [crucifixion].

Scripture Reading (Mark 15:16-32)

Verses 16-20

16 And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. **17** And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. **18** And they began to salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” **19** And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. **20** And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

- Jesus led to Pilate’s palace, called the Praetorium.
 - The intensified mocking of Jesus included portraying Him as a king.
 - Dressing him up, crowning him with thorns, and placing a scepter in His hand [Matthew 27:29]
 - Crown of thorns
 - Not only was it used to mock and inflict intense pain...
 - It gives us a picture of man’s original sin that was placed upon Jesus.
 - **Genesis 3:17-18 NLT**, “And to the man he said, “Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains.”

Verse 21

21 And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

- Simon of Cyrene [North Africa; Modern Libya] is chosen to assist Jesus in carrying the cross.
 - This gives us insight to the state Jesus was in.
 - History and tradition tells us that a lot of prisoners died from the flogging prior to being crucified.
- What Simon was compelled to do physically, we are to do spiritually.

- **Mark 8:34-35**, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.”
 - **“Let him deny himself”**
 - The complete release of self-centeredness is crucial to following Jesus.
 - **“Take up your cross”**
 - Death to self is a faithful, public call... Crucifixion was a public spectacle.
 - People were purposefully crucified along roadways, so people would understand their crimes, and serve as a warning.
 - Crucifixion was shameful and full of suffering.
 - Following Jesus to the fullest extent will bring shame. Shame from people who don’t understand why you ignore all that the world has to offer you.
 - Following Jesus to the fullest extent will bring suffering. The suffering of spiritual attack as you follow Jesus and pursue His ways of expanding His kingdom here on earth.

Verses 22-23

22 And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). **23** And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.

- The gifts presented to Jesus at His birth are now symbolized at His death.
 - Gold = fit for a king
 - **Matthew 2:2**, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”
 - Jesus was mocked and killed as “The King of the Jews”; but how true it is.
 - Frankincense = perfume/fragrance; representative of deity, royalty, or priestliness.
 - Myrrh = used as a spice, also for embalming the dead.
- In this case, used as a narcotic to numb the pain.
 - Jesus denies the drink to maintain all his faculties in what he was accomplishing.
 - He didn’t set out to numb the process, or avoid the pain and suffering.

Verses 24-28

24 And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. **25** And it was the third hour when they crucified him. **26** And the inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” **27** And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left.

- “And they crucified Him...”
 - **[C. Truman Davis; a medical examination of crucifixion]** “Jesus is quickly thrown backwards with His shoulders against the wood. The legionnaire feels for the depression at the front of the wrist. He drives a heavy, square, wrought-iron nail through the wrist and deep into the wood. Quickly, he moves to the other side and repeats the action, being careful not to pull

the arms too tightly, but to allow some flex and movement. The crosspiece is then lifted in place at the top of the vertical beam ... The left foot is pressed backward against the right foot, and with both feet extended, toes down, a nail is driven through the arch of each, leaving the knees moderately flexed. The Victim is now crucified ... Air can be drawn into the lungs, but cannot be exhaled. Jesus fights to raise Himself in order to get even one small breath. Finally carbon dioxide builds up in the lungs and in the blood stream and the cramps partially subside. Spasmodically He is able to push himself upward to exhale and bring in the life-giving oxygen ... Hours of this limitless pain, cycles of twisting, joint-rending cramps, intermittent partial asphyxiation, searing pain as tissue is torn from His lacerated back as He moves up and down against the rough timber. Then another agony begins. A deep crushing pain deep in the chest as the pericardium slowly fills with serum and begins to compress the heart ... the compressed heart is struggling to pump heavy, thick, sluggish blood into the tissues—the tortured lungs are making a frantic effort to gasp in small gulps of air ... The body of Jesus is now in extremis, and He can feel the chill of death creeping through His tissues.”

- **Psalm 22:18**, “they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.”
- The charge/TRUTH against Jesus is fixed above his head.
 - **Matthew 27:37**, “This is Jesus, The King of the Jews”
 - **Mark 15:26**, “The King of the Jews”
 - **Luke 23:38**, “This is the King of the Jews”
 - **John 19:19-22**, “Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, ‘Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.’ Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, ‘Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’ Pilate answered, ‘What I have written I have written.’”
- Jesus is crucified between two robbers

Verses 29-32

29 And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, **30** save yourself, and come down from the cross!” **31** So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. **32** Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

- Convicted of blasphemy, people now ridicule Jesus, using His prophecy to mock Him as He die.
 - **Psalm 22:7-8**, “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!”
- The chief priests also joined in to mock Jesus calling him “The King of Israel”.
 - **“He saved others; he cannot save himself”** = they witnessed the ministry of Jesus. They knew of His power. They knew of His healing touch. But they saw Him as a miracle-worker, not in what he was now doing...even for them. As Israel’s

spiritual leaders, they completely missed the spiritual nature of the event taking place right before their eyes; rather, they missed the entire purpose of scripture, and the life they now ridicule; LET THAT BE A LESSON FOR US ALL!

- Even the criminals crucified on either side of Jesus mocked him.
 - “Rejection, abuse, and mockery attacked Jesus from the highest to the lowest of society.”
 - **Philippians 2:7-8**, “...[Jesus] emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Response/Conclusion

- **TWO WEEKS AGO:** What our response should be to Christ’s humiliation.
 - Willingly bear pain and humiliation, diligently praise His name, and have more assurance of our faith.
- **LAST WEEK:** What is our response to our own sin?
 - Are we living like religiously-cloaked chief priests, oblivious Barabbas, or self-preserving Pilate?
- **TODAY:** What is our response to His humiliating death as He bore our sin?
 - There are only two possible responses
 - **Luke 23:39-43**, “One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
 - **Response #1/Thief #1:**
 - Mockery, blasphemy, ignorance = Death [**Romans 6:23**, “**For the wages of sin is death...**”]
 - **Response #2/Thief #2:**
 - Recognition of his own sin and condemnation
 - Recognition that Jesus is the Messiah [**Romans 6:23**, “**For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**”]
 - **QUOTE:** “He may have reasoned: If His name is Jesus, then He is a Saviour. If He is from Nazareth, then He would identify with rejected people. If He has a kingdom, then perhaps there is room for me!” [Warren Wiersbe]
 - **John 20:31**, “but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

- **Hebrews 11:6**, “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”
- **Acts 4:12**, “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
- Recognition that He is the only way! **[John 14:6]**
 - **Romans 10:9-10**, “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”