



# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

SESSION 18: CHAPTER 15:21 – 16:20

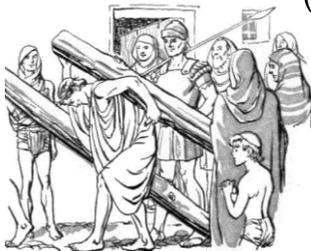
“THE END?”

Read Mark 15: 21 - 32.



1. (a). Why is Simon of Cyrene mentioned by name?

Why did he have to carry the cross-beam?



(b). What is the significance of the "wine mingled with myrrh"?

Why does Jesus refuse to take it (cf. 10:38, 14: 25, 36 )?

(c). Why did the escort cast lots (cf. Psalm 22:18)?

(d). What ironies are present in the charges and jeers directed toward Jesus on the Cross?

Read Mark 15: 33 - 39.

2. (a). What is the significance of the darkness?

(b). In v.34, Jesus quotes the first verse of Psalm 22.

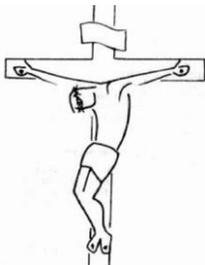
What other aspects of this Psalm are reflected in the events of this day?

(c). Why did the bystanders misunderstand what Jesus was saying?



(d). What is the significance of the "torn curtain"?

(e). In what ways is the Centurion's confession a climax to the whole of this gospel?



**Read Mark 15: 40 - 47.**

- 3.(a). Why do you think it was Joseph and the women who had followed Jesus, and not the eleven, who were present when Jesus died?
- (b). What do you think prompted Joseph to act and ask for the body?  
Why did it require "courage"?
- (c). Why was Pilate "surprised" by the fact that Jesus was dead?
- (d). Why do you think the detail of v.47 is mentioned?

**Read Mark 16: 1 - 8.**

- 4.(a). Why did the women bring spices to the tomb on the first day of the week "very early"?
- (b). Why was the stone rolled back ?
- (c). What did they discover inside and what effect did it have on them?
- (d). Why is it significant that Peter is mentioned by name in v.7?
- (e) What reassurance can we draw from the Lord's evident forgiveness of Peter (cf. 3:28)?



*The earliest and best manuscripts of Mark's Gospel end at v.8. Nearly all scholars agree that if Mark did not end his work here, we have lost what he wrote (vv. 9-20 were clearly written by someone else). While some still hold that the original ending has been lost, a growing number of scholars believe Mark intended to end with v.8 as it is*

- 5.(a). How is v.8 an appropriate ending to the gospel story?
- (b). How can this passage reinforce our commitment to sharing the good news of Christ with others?

**Read Mark 16: 9 - 20.**

6. (a). What are the main themes of this section?
- (b). What other Gospel incidents do they reflect?
- (c) What can we learn from this "extra" section?