



## Mark 15:21-6:8

The final days of Jesus' life were marked by betrayal, abandonment and an obedience to the Father's will. He freely embraced the cross and was crucified in our place. Isaiah spoke of this day, when he said that the Christ, "would be pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities...bear our suffering..." and that "the Lord would lay on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:4,5,6).

Yet, we are a people who can confidently say along with the Apostle Paul that "Christ has indeed been raised from the dead" (1 Corin. 15:20a) and it is this news about the living Savior that has transformed us into a people with a living hope (1 Pet. 1:3).

Jesus, our wonderful substitute, hanging in our place had the cup of God's wrath fully drained upon him so that through his forsaking we might be welcomed! He is risen. He is alive, and He is worthy of our praise; worthy of our all.

### THE CRUCIFIXION & DEATH OF JESUS (vv. 21-41)

Read the entire passage through and consider the questions below.

1. Though Mark does not provide us with as many details of the crucifixion and death of Jesus as other gospels, what in particular grabs you from the details he provides?
2. Mark reveals a large dose of irony in vv.31-32 as he recounts the chief priests request for Jesus to come down and save himself. How would you describe the irony? What would have happened if Jesus had listened to their request?
3. Vv. 33-34 tell us that as darkness fell upon the land (at noon mind you) Jesus let out a cry, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" What do you believe the answer is to this question? Why was Jesus forsaken by God? What hope can we find in Jesus' being forsaken?
4. In v. 38 we are told that the curtain of the temple was torn from top to bottom. What is the O.T. significance to the curtain of the temple? What good news does this mean for us today?
5. V. 39 would have struck Mark's original audience as odd since the Centurion was involved in Jesus' crucifixion. How do you think Mark is trying to get his reader (and us) to respond?

### THE BURIAL & RESURRECTION OF JESUS (vv. 42-6:8)

Again, Mark was quickly and with precision through Jesus' burial and resurrection. And even though many scholars believe Mark ended his gospel abruptly (for affect) many consider Mark as to provided some of the most compelling evidence regarding the historicity of the resurrection of Jesus.

Once you have read the passage, please consider the questions below.

1. Based on all that Mark has provided concerning the burial and resurrection of Jesus – which pieces of evidence do you find most compelling?
2. Consider all of the alternatives for the resurrection (Jesus did not actually die, his body was stolen, the women went to the wrong tomb, they made the entire story up, etc) and then use the evidence Mark provides to combat these claims.
3. Looking at v.8, why do you think the women responded to the angel's news in the way that they did?
4. What does the news that "He is risen" stir up in your heart? Is this news that you think about often? What keeps you from dwelling upon the resurrection?
5. As we have stated, Mark is believed to have ended his gospel abruptly and unexpectedly. Why do you think he did this? What affect would it have potentially had on his original audience? What affect should it have on us today?

Jesus' resurrection is the seal and headstone of the great work of redemption, which He came to do. It is the crowning proof that He has paid the debt which He undertook to pay on our behalf, won the battle which He fought to deliver us from hell, and is accepted as our Substitute by our Father in heaven.

-J.C. Ryle