

## "And They Crucified Him"

Has the crucifixion become routine to you?

Mark 15.1–25

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Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Larry Amberg – Songs on the crucifixion

### **Prelude:**

#### **I. Recently in my Bible class,**

A. I told the class of an experience that I had one morning reading Mark 15.

B. I read the text emotionless, without really considering what I was reading.

1. Mark 15 covers the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth.

2. This happened in March, 1997.

a) Therefore, I would have been a Christian for over 20 years at that time.

b) Also, I had been preaching for 17 years.

#### **II. When you have been doing something for a couple of decades,**

A. you can become apathetic,

B. forgetting your original zeal, because

1. what was new to you at one time,

2. has now become old, routine, and familiar.

#### **III. I was reading Mark 15.1–25,**

A. noting some things along the way,

B. pausing and thinking about them, but

1. as I came to the end of the reading,

2. I read over it casually and quickly,

a) not giving it much thought.

b) Then I realized what I had done.

(1) I read the last two verses again,

(2) meditating upon what I read.

#### **IV. I want to show you what I saw and**

- A. hopefully you will not make the same mistake
- B. that I made initially.

**Persuasion:**

**I. Mark 15.1–5 | The Silence of Jesus**

**1 Immediately, in the morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council; and they bound Jesus, led Him away, and delivered Him to Pilate. 2 Then Pilate asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” He answered and said to him, “It is as you say.” 3 And the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing. 4 Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, “Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You!” 5 But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marveled (Mark 15.1–5).**

- A. To be surrounded by men who hate you and
  - 1. want to see you dead
  - 2. would be an exceedingly frightening experience.
- B. Then Pilate interrogated Jesus,
  - 1. wanting to know if He was the King of the Jews.
  - 2. Pilate asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?”
    - a) Jesus answered, “It is as you say.”
    - b) Like saying,
      - (1) Whatever you say, because
      - (2) what I say will not matter to you.
- C. See the astonishment of Pilate
  - 1. that Jesus could remain silent in the face of accusations,
  - 2. accusations which would prove fatal and Jesus knew it.
    - a) No doubt, Pilate had not seen a man
    - b) take such strong accusations silently.
      - (1) Even after prompting, Jesus remained silent,

(2) moving Pilate to marvel.

D. How could a man not answer what others said against him?

## II. Mark 15.6–15 | A Murderer Instead of a Savior

**6 Now at the feast he was accustomed to releasing one prisoner to them, whomever they requested. 7 And there was one named Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder in the rebellion. 8 Then the multitude, crying aloud, began to ask him to do just as he had always done for them. 9 But Pilate answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” 10 For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy. 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd, so that he should rather release Barabbas to them. 12 Pilate answered and said to them again, “What then do you want me to do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?” 13 So they cried out again, “Crucify Him!” 14 Then Pilate said to them, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they cried out all the more, “Crucify Him!” 15 So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to be crucified (Mark 15.6–15).**

A. Pilate had established a custom of releasing a prisoner, and

1. the Jews used this to have a murderer released.
2. Since Barabbas committed murder in an insurrection,
  - a) it was against Romans.
  - b) So Barabbas was their kind of guy.

B. They did not want the Man

1. who brought God’s kingdom in God’s way, but
2. they wanted a man who would bring the kingdom in their own way.

C. Verses 9–10 show that Pilate could see

1. that Jesus was innocent of the charges against Him, and
2. that the chief priests were envious.
  - a) Therefore, Pilate attempted to release Jesus.
  - b) While Pilate knew how to play the game of politics,

- (1) he also had a conscience.
- (2) He saw the innocence of Jesus.
  - (a) Pilate could not bring himself to fulfilling
  - (b) the Jew’s wish of crucifying Jesus, at least not yet.

D. For the moment

1. the Roman governor had moral fortitude and backbone.
2. He had insight into the true motive for their wish for blood.

E. However, verses 11–15 show

1. that the crowd persisted in demanding the crucifixion of Jesus, and
2. Pilate gave in to their demands.
  - a) Pilate considered the life of one Man as expendable
  - b) to keep the peace
    - (1) rather than allowing a riot to form and
    - (2) many people dying.

F. Pilate knew the the innocence of this Man, but

1. not His divine identity,
2. nevertheless, the greater numbers opposing Jesus and
  - a) their insistence persuaded Pilate
  - b) that he should turn Jesus over to crucifixion.

### III. Mark 15.16–20 | They Mocked Him

**16 Then the soldiers led Him away into the hall called Praetorium, and they called together the whole garrison. 17 And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His head, 18 and began to salute Him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” 19 Then they struck Him on the head with a reed and spat on Him; and bowing the knee, they worshiped Him. 20 And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him (Mark 15.16–20).**

A. Verse 16 shows the whole garrison mocking Jesus.

1. When one person ridicules you
2. it is bad enough, but
  - a) to have a whole group
  - b) only intensifies the verbal persecution and fear.

B. Do you know how many soldiers totaled a Roman garrison or band?

1. Every painting that I have seen of this episode
2. shows a few soldiers.
  - a) Now before I tell you how many Roman soldiers participated,
  - b) picture in your minds how they mocked Him.
3. Verses 17–19 show them
  - a) clothing Him with purple,
  - b) putting a crown of thorns on His head,
  - c) saluting Him in His not very king-like appearance,
  - d) striking Him on the head, hitting the crown of thorns with a reed,
  - e) spitting on Him, and
  - f) bowing before Him to worship Him.

C. Do you see a few men doing this, a dozen, or 50, perhaps even 100?

1. Now be ready for this, see 600
2. of the strongest,
3. best-trained,
4. well-equipped and
5. battle-experienced soldiers!

D. In verse 20, the Roman soldiers finished playing around and

1. finally they led Him out to the crucifixion,

**20 And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put**

**His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him.**

#### IV. Mark 15.21–23 | On to Golgotha

**21 Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross. 22 And they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull. 23 Then they gave Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but He did not take it (Mark 15.21–23).**

- A. Evidently, Jesus could not carry the cross all the way, for
1. He had not slept that night,
  2. He had not had anything to eat or drink,
  3. He received several beatings, and
  4. He received a flesh-tearing scourging (which Mark did not mention).
- B. Did Simon of modern Libya know what was going on?
1. Did he know the accusations against Jesus?
  2. Did he consider carrying the cross an honor or a humiliation?
    - a) This man's sons were well-known in the church (Acts 19.33; Rom 16.13).
- C. Jesus, Simon, the Romans, and the Jews finally reached
1. the place of Roman execution, Golgotha,
  2. the Place of a Skull.
    - a) Luke 23.33 calls it "Calvary."
    - b) Golgotha is Aramaic,
      - (1) Calvary is Latin,
      - (2) both words mean skull.
- D. Verse 23 says that they tried to give Him something to drink, but
1. He would not drink the wine mingled with myrrh.

2. He did not leave heaven and
  - a) suffer what He did up to this point
  - b) only to have the pain deluded.
3. He willingly took on all the pain.

**V. Mark 15.24–25 | “And They Crucified Him”**

**24 And when they crucified Him, they divided His garments, casting lots for them to determine what every man should take. 25 Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him (Mark 15.24–25).**

- A. They divided His garments,
  1. implying that they left Him naked, or close to it,
  2. adding to His humiliation and mockery.
- B. This happened at the third hour, nine in the morning.
- C. “And they crucified Him.”
  1. Beware of the danger of reading over this quickly and casually.
  2. We may grow accustomed
    - a) to hearing about the crucifixion of Jesus and
    - b) become callused to what He experienced.
- D. Consider these brief two statements:
  1. Verse 24: **“And when they crucified Him...”**
  2. Verse 25: **“...and they crucified Him.”**
  3. Verse 20 had already said they led Him out to crucify Him.
    - a) What would you think, if...?
    - b) What would you *women* think,
      - (1) especially if you have been raped,
      - (2) if I read a story about some men abusing a woman, and
        - (a) I came to the part where it says that they raped her and

(b) I read it nonchalantly? “and they raped her...”

c) What would you *men* think,

(1) if I was reading a story about war, and

(2) with a careless and emotionless reading,

(a) I read that your buddy voluntarily took a bullet and

(b) died saving your life? “and he took a bullet for John Doe...”

E. Have you read Mark 15.24–25

1. without picturing the horrors of a Roman crucifixion?

2. Have you read His humiliation when they took His clothes?

3. Have you felt the pain of having nails driven through the hands and feet?

F. When a first century Roman believed that Jesus was the Son of God,

1. who had become flesh, and

2. they read the last four words of Mark 15.25

**“...and they crucified Him,”**

a) the fourth reference to His crucifixion,

b) they immediately got a picture of a Roman crucifixion.

G. Since we have never witnessed a crucifixion

1. we have to research it and

2. dwell longer upon the texts that show it to us.

### **Exhortation:**

**I. Remember why we observe the Lord’s Supper every week.**

**II. Remember His death often.**

**III. Remember that you were baptized into His death.**

**IV. Keep in mind that He willingly suffered in the flesh for you.**

**V. Let His sacrifice move you to be a compassionate person.**