

Mark 15:16-39

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.

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. **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. **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. **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.

33 And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. **34** And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" **35** And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." **36** And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." **37** And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. **38** And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. **39** And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Discussion/Journal Questions

How is everyone doing with the Resolve 2021 goals? How is your time in prayer, Bible, and Christian community going?

Read Mark 1:1 and Mark 1:14-15. How would a Roman government official have reacted to the claim that Jesus is the Son of God and King? Why would this claim have gotten Christians in trouble with Rome?

How do you react to the claim that the gospel is political? Do you agree or disagree, why or why not?

Read Mark 15:16-39 slowly and carefully. How many times is Jesus referred to or treated as King? How many times is Jesus mocked or insulted?

Read Psalm 22. What references to the crucifixion do you see in this Psalm?

At the end of the Psalm does the writer feel abandoned by God? Why or why not?

Why are the words of the Roman centurion in verse 39 significant?

What would the message that Jesus is greater than Caesar communicate to Christians being persecuted by Rome? What does it communicate to us today?

Is there anything in your life that needs to be brought under the Kingship of Jesus? How can you group help encourage and pray for you?

Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?

Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?

Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?