

Mark 15:21-32 – This is a typical scene. One irony here is that both the religious leaders and the Roman establishment were aligned. Some background, the wine and myrrh was meant to help deaden the pain of crucifixion. Jesus refused this because he wanted to take on the full pain of the cross. The third hour refers to 3 hours after sunrise. Amazing to think Jesus was on the cross by mid-morning.

Jesus was beaten, crucified, derided, mocked, and reviled. The soldiers, chief priests, passersby, and even the fellow robbers made fun of him. Why did Jesus do this? (More than one answer).

Their temptations to him were to “save yourself,” ironically Jesus had the power to do this, but stayed there anyways. What does this tell us about the people around the crucifixion, especially the passersby and chief priests? What did they misunderstand?

Sometimes people ask why do bad things happen to good people, but here Jesus is the one truly good person in history – Why did this happen?

Mark 15:33-41 – Opinions begin to change about him as he dies. He was on the cross 6 hours. There was 3 hours of darkness. Jesus quotes Psalm 22 – read the entire Psalm and share your thoughts.

What did the centurion see that made him say that Jesus, “was the Son of God!?” The centurion would be aware of Roman gods and would have lived in Judea long enough to understand the Hebrew mindset as well.

Does it surprise you to learn that many of the women disciples were at this event? What does this mean?

Mark 15:42-47 – What does it mean that Joseph of Arimathea was a part of the council (the group who convicted Jesus) and was “looking for the Kingdom?” Are you looking for the Kingdom? How would you find it? What would it look like?

Joseph of Arimathea had access to the power structures of Jerusalem (Pilate and Religious Leaders). How do you think this situation made him feel?