

Of First Importance

Part 1: Dead and Buried

Mark 15:16-47

Of First Importance

(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

- The events described form the foundation of our relationship with God

The Historical Events

(Mark 15:16-47)

- The Death of Jesus
 - The physical suffering was incomparable, but the spiritual agony was infinitely greater
- The Burial of Jesus
 - Confirming His death, fulfilling prophecy, and previewing the events of the Resurrection

Why It Matters

(Mark 10:45; 1 Pet 1:18-20)

- The Gospel describes actual events involving people, places, and activities that are historically verifiable
- The debt was owed to God, and the ransom was paid by God
- Identity and mission come together at the cross to accomplish our redemption

For Life Group Discussion

Mark 15:16-47

1. Our author (1:1), the unclean spirits (3:11, 5:7), a Roman Centurion (15:39) and the Father (1:11, 9:7) are the only ones in Mark who refer to Jesus as the Son of God. How does that help us understand Mark's emphasis on identity and the question of 8:39?
2. Read 1st Corinthians 15:1-4 and note Paul's emphasis on Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. And he specifies that it is all "according to the scriptures." What Old Testament passages would you use to verify this?
3. When you share the gospel with others, do tend to emphasize Jesus death more than His resurrection? What can we learn from passages like Acts 2:23-32, 3:13-15, 4:8-10, 10:36-41, & 26:22-23?
4. Read Mark 15:15-41. What parts of this story impact you most? Why?
5. What is the difference between ideas, proposals, philosophies, mythology, and news? Can Mark's account help us better understand what it means to proclaim the Gospel, the Good NEWS?
6. Read Mark 10:45 and 1 Peter 1:18-20. What can we learn about the death of Jesus by this use of the word "ransom"? In what situations is a ransom demanded? To whom was this ransom owed, and why?