

April 14, 2019
THE ROAD TO HOPE - Part 4
“Good Friday”

Wednesday - Matthew 26:3-16, Mark 14:1-11, Luke 22:1-6

Thursday - Matthew 26:17-56, Mark 14:12-52, Luke 22:7-53, John 13:1-18:11

Friday - Matthew 26:57-27:61, Mark 14:53-15:47, Luke 22:54-23:56, John 18:12-19:42

Mark 15:15-17 (ESV): “¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. ¹⁶And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him.”

Pilate had given the crowd the choice of releasing either Jesus or Barabbas, a revolutionary, and the crowd, probably egged on by the religious leaders, chose to release Barabbas, sealing Jesus’ fate.

Mark 15:18-19 (ESV): “¹⁸And they began to salute him, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ ¹⁹And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him.”

Mark 15:20-21 (ESV): “²⁰And 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. ²¹And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.”

Condemned prisoners who were to be crucified carried the crossbar to the execution site, as a way of punishing them and, because it went through the streets, made a strong statement to any who might be considering challenging the Romans.

Roughly thirty years later the Apostle Paul closed his letter to the Romans sending greetings to several individuals, including a *Rufus* (16:13), and many have thought that Mark had come to know Rufus in his travels.

Mark 15:22 (ESV): “And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull).”

Mark 15:23 (ESV): “And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.”

Mark 15:24-25 (ESV): “²⁴And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. ²⁵And it was the third hour when they crucified him.”

The “third hour” was the third hour of daylight and would have been about 9 am.

Mark 15:26 (ESV): “And the inscription of the charge against him read, ‘The King of the Jews.’”

Mark 15:27 (ESV): “And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left.”

Mark 15:29-32 (ESV): “²⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, ‘Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!’ ³¹So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, ‘He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let 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.”

Everyone believed the Messiah was supposed to defeat the Romans, but here Jesus is dying at their hands.

1 Corinthians 15:3 (ESV): “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures”

King David, Isaiah and Zechariah all foretold in stunning detail that this is what Jesus came to do! (Isaiah 53:4-6)

Mark 15:33 (ESV): “And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.”

Mark understands the darkness as a supernatural act of God and probably a sign of judgment.

Mark 15:34-36 (ESV): “³⁴And 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?’ ³⁵And some of the bystanders hearing it said, ‘Behold, he is calling Elijah.’ ³⁶And 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.’”

In that time of darkness all sin was placed on Jesus – all the sins of his disciples, his enemies, your sins, my sins, all sins, past, present and future.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV): “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

In becoming our sin, taking the sin of the world upon himself, he experienced something he’d never experienced before - separation from God, for sin separates us from God.

This was the only way God could be just and merciful - there had to be a cost for our sin, and Jesus paid it in full on the cross. (Romans 5:6-10)

Jesus was quoting the first line of King David’s 22nd Psalm, written a thousand years earlier. (Psalm 22:24-31)

Through this Psalm Jesus revealed himself to be the King so many hoped for, but they could not yet see it.

Mark 15:37-39 (ESV): “³⁷And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹And 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!’”

Mark is very clear that the curtain tore “from top to bottom,” from God down to man, so that the way to God no longer went through the Temple and priests but through Jesus Christ.

Jesus took upon himself our sin, paid the price for it, and freed from the power of sin and death all those who turn to him.

Next Week: Easter Sunday

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