

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 38: Mark 15:33-47

Jesus' death on the cross (vv. 33-41)

- From noon until 3PM, there is darkness (not an eclipse)
 - This is prophesied in Amos 8:9-10
- At the end of the darkness, Jesus cries out
 - His words are the first line of Psalm 22, suggesting *remez*
 - Many see this as Jesus experiencing the alienation of sin
 - He takes the curse of humanity's sin – Deut. 21:23; Gal. 3:13
- Some think He is calling for Elijah (folklore)
 - Sour wine was a refreshing drink used by Roman soldiers
- As Jesus dies, the veil of the temple is torn, top to bottom
 - There were two veils, or curtains in the temple
 - Hebrews indicates that this was the inner veil (esp. 10:19-22)
- Jesus is still strong at His death, impressing the centurion in charge
 - Note Jesus' "loud voice" in verse 37
- The women who had followed Jesus from Galilee watch all this
 - They would be the key witnesses to His death, burial, and resurrection

Matt. 27:45-56
Luke 23:44-49
John 19:25-37

How would you characterize the centurion's declaration in verse 54?

What do we know, and what should we learn, from the women being witnesses?

The burial (vv. 42-47)

- A body hanging past sundown defiled the land (Deut. 21:23)
- Generally the Romans allowed family to bury the dead criminal
 - The exception to this was in cases of treason
- Joseph of Arimathea comes forward to ask for Jesus' body
 - He could not possibly prepare Jesus' body before nightfall
 - John records that Nicodemus joins him (John 19:39)
 - Matthew notes (27:57) that Joseph is rich, so he likely has servants
- Later archaeology has shown that the tomb was in a cemetery
 - Often these were built in old quarries

Matt. 27:57-61
Luke 23:50-56
John 19:38-42

Why would it be risky for Joseph to ask for Jesus' body?

What do we learn from Pilate's actions after the request?