

Mark

Lesson 19 Chapter 15:21-47

Leader Guide

Leader Guide Bible Studies

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The Crucifixion

Lesson 19, Mark 15:21-47

Prayers

Introduction

The cross of Christ is his greatest glory. It was his life's purpose, and he invites us to share in it, "Take up your cross and follow me" (Matthew 26:24). But, what is this cross Jesus invites us to share; excruciating suffering and death? Our calling is to share a life of humility, a life in submission to our Father and worship, a willingness to sacrifice worldly honor, and a spirit of gentleness and self-denial for the benefit of others.

The resurrection of our Lord is the great victory celebration of our faith; a victory won through the power of Christ's blood and death. We receive redemption, forgiveness, sanctification, a new life in the Spirit through faith in his blood. "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Read the account the crucifixion, merged from all the gospel writers. Mark 15:21-32 and parallel verses in Mt 27:33-44; Lk 23:33-43; Jn 19:17-24

Mk 15:21 A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross.

[Lk 23:27 A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.

Lk 23:28 Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children.

Lk 23:29 For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!'

Lk 23:30 Then " 'they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" '

Lk 23:31 For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Lk 23:32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed.

Mk 15:22 They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull).

Mk 15:23 Then they (the soldiers) offered him wine mixed with myrrh (gall), but [Mt 27:34 but after tasting it] he did not take it [Lk 23:37 and they said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."]

Mk 15:24a And they crucified him [Lk 23:33 along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. [Lk 23:34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."]

Mk 15:24b Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

[Jn 19:24 This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did.]

Mk 15:25 It was the third hour when they crucified him. [Mt 27:36 And sitting down, they kept watch over him there.]

[Jn 19:19 Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross.] Mk 15:26 The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.

[Jn 19:20 Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek.

Jn 19:21 The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

Jn 19:22 Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

Jn 19:25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

Jn 19:26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," Jn 19:27 and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Mk 15:27 They crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.

Mk 15:29 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, Mk 15:30 come down from the cross and save yourself!" [Mt 27:40 Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!]

Mk 15:31 In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself!

Mk 15:32 Let this Christ, this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

[Lk 23:39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

Lk 23:40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence?

Lk 23:41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

Lk 23:42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Lk 23:43 Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."]

1. Luke includes the prophetic words Jesus spoke to the people as Simon the Cyrene carried his cross. What was Jesus referring to in these statements?
 - a. Luke 23:28-29 – see Matthew 24:2-21
 - b. Luke 23:30 – see Hosea 10:8
 - c. Luke 23:31- see Ezekiel 20:47

Jesus spoke the words of Hosea and Ezekiel because they foretold the destruction of Israel. Hosea prophesied the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel by the Assyrians. Ezekiel foretold the destruction of and captivity of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. Jesus was foretelling the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans because of Israel' rejection of the Messiah.

The prophecies fulfilled by Jesus' crucifixion are discussed at the end of the lesson.

Mark 15:33-41 The Death of Jesus. Parallel verses in Mt 27:45-56; Lk 23:44-49, Jn 19:28-37

Mk 15:33 At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour [Lk 23:45 for the sun stopped shining.]

Mk 15:34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, *"Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"* — which means, *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* ^{76 a}

Mk 15:35 When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

Mk 15:36 One man ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

[Jn 19:30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, *"It is finished."*]

Mk 15:37 With a loud cry, [Lk 23:46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, *"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."*] Jesus breathed his last [Mt 27:50 he gave up his spirit.]

[Jn 19:31 Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down.

Jn 19:32 The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other.

Jn 19:33 But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ^{Jn 19:34} Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.

Jn 19:35 The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe.

Jn 19:36 These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," ^{Jn 19:37} and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."]

Mk 15:38 The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. [Mt 27:51 The earth shook and the rocks split. ^{Mt 27:52} The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ^{Mt 27:53} They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.]

Mk 15:39 And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

[Lk 23:48 When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away.]

Mk 15:40 Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome [^{Mt 27:56} and the mother of Zebedee's sons.]

Mk 15:41 In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

2. Who was in control of Jesus' death?
 1. Pilate
 2. Jewish leaders
 3. Roman soldiers
 4. Other

Number 4. Other - Jesus was in control!

3. Why did Jesus regard his death as his glory as he spoke to his disciples in the Upper Room during their last supper (John 12:23, 13:31)?

Jesus' death was the purpose of his birth. Through his death, he would redeem humanity from their bondage to sin. Jesus' death was not because of Judas' betrayal or Satan's scheme; it was Jesus' victory over the sins of man and the power of Satan's schemes. John the Baptist gave testimony to the world about Jesus— "Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world." Jesus was God's Passover Lamb sacrificed for the sins of the world.

4. Jesus' crucifixion was accompanied by prophetic signs of nature and other symbolic signs. What was the significance of the curtain of temple torn in two from top to bottom, and the dead rising from the tombs?

The significance of the torn curtain in the temple is discussed in Hebrews 9-10. The curtain of the temple separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place of God's presence. The High Priest could only enter the Most Holy Place once a year to offer a sacrifice for the sin of God's people. The curtain was torn in two to signify the removal of the barrier between God and his people. Jesus removed the barrier because he offered the perfect sacrifice for sins for all time (Hebrews 10:12).

This is a sign of Christ's power over the dead. On the last day, Christ will call the dead to rise from their graves to be judged to receive life or condemnation (John 5:29). The natural signs and resurrection of the dead made it clear that Jesus was the Messiah.

Mark 15:42-47, The Burial of Jesus. Parallel verses in Mt 27:57-61; Lk 23:50-56; Jn 19:38-42

Mk 15:42 It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, Mk 15:43 Joseph of Arimathea, [^{Mt 27:57} a rich man from Arimathea] a prominent member of the Council, [^{Lk 23:50} a good and upright man, ^{Lk 23:51} who had not consented to their decision and

action] who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. [Jn 19:38 Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. Jn 19:39 He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.]

Mk 15:44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died.

Mk 15:45 When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph.

[Jn 19:41 At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid.]

Mk 15:46 So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

[Jn 19:40 This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.

Jn 19:42 Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Mk 15:47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid. [Lk 23:56 Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.]

5. Each gospel writer provided additional details to the life and faith of Joseph of Arimathea. What strikes you most about him?

What strikes me most is that Joseph was a secret follower until Jesus' death. But the injustice of his fellow council members drove him to be a public disciple of Christ. Likewise, injustice or ignorance about Christ should call us to make a public profession of our faith.

6. The gospel account of the crucifixion of our Lord reads like a script written by the prophets over hundreds of years, hundreds of years before the event. In this section, we will look at how the smallest details of the crucifixion fulfill scriptures. List each event in the crucifixion that fulfilled the following scriptures:

1. Mark 15:23 / Ps 69:21 _____

Ps 69:21 They put gall in my food and gave me **vinegar for my thirst**.

2. Mark 15:24 / Isa 53:12 _____

Isa 53:12 Therefore, I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was **numbered with the transgressors**.

3. Mark 15:20 / Ps 22:16 _____

Ps 22:16 Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, **they have pierced my hands and my feet**.

4. Luke 23:34 / Is 53:12 _____

Isa 53:12 For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

5. Mark 15:24b / Ps 22:18 _____

Ps 22:18 **They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.**

6. John 19:9 / Mt 2:2 _____

Mt 2:2 "Where is the one who has been born **king of the Jews**? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

7. Jn 19:26 / Dt 5:16 _____

Dt 5:16 "**Honor your father and your mother**, as the LORD your God has commanded you

8. Mt 15:29 / Ps 22:6 _____

Ps 22:6 But I am a worm and not a man, **scorned by men and despised by the people.**

9. Lk 23:43 / Jn 11:25 _____

Jn 11:25 Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;**

10. Mt 15:33 / Joel 2:31 _____

Joel 2:31 **The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.**

Mk 15:34 / Ps 22:1 Is 53:12 _____

Ps 22:1 My God, **my God, why have you forsaken me?** Why are you so far from saving me?

11. Mk 15:37- Lk 23:46 / Ps 31:5 _____

Ps 31:5 Into your hands **I commit my spirit**; redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth. Jn 10:18 No one takes it [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

12. Jn 19:33 / Ps 34:20 _____

Ps 34:20 he protects all his bones, **not one of them will be broken.**

13. Jn 19:34 / Is 53:5 _____

Isa 53:5 But he was **pierced for our transgressions**, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

14. Lk 23:48 / Zech 12:10 _____

Zec 12:10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. **They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him** as one mourns for an only child

15. Mt 15:46 / Is 53:9 _____

Isa 53:9 **He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death**, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

16. Mk 15:40 / Lk 2:34-35 _____

Lk 2:34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,
Lk 2:35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And **a sword will pierce your own soul too.**"

7. Our relationship with God flows from Jesus' blood and death as God's sacrificial Passover lamb. Review the following passages and summarize in your own words how Jesus' blood establishes our relationship with God.

1. Lev 17:11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

Ro 3:25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.

Life for life is a most ancient concept. God Gave the Hebrews animal sacrifice as a means to atone for their sins, redemption of their life through the lifeblood of an animal. It was a foreshadowing of how He would atone for the sins of all people through the lifeblood of his one and only Son.

2. Eph 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace Eph 1:8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Redeemed! Lost but now found; guilty but forgiven.

3. Colossians 1:19-22 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. ²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.

Once we were alienated from God because of our sin, but now our relationship with God has been restored – reconciled through Jesus' blood.

4. Ro 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

Christ's blood has justified us. Remember the rich young man who sought to justify himself through his obedience to the law. Jesus demonstrated to him that it was impossible. Since we cannot justify ourselves, Jesus justified us through his blood so that God is justified in forgiving all of our sins.

5. ^{1Jn 1:7} But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Though my sins have been like scarlet, they are now washed whiter than snow through Christ's blood.

6. ^{1Co 11:25} In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, **“This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”**

Through Christ's blood, I am in a new relationship with God. I am his child, secure in his love, grace, and forgiveness.

Closing Prayer by Isaac Watts (1707)

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.