



TRIAL & TORTURE

MARK 15:1-20

Sunday, March 29, 2020

Pastor Rich Miller

Mark 15:1-20

¹ Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

² “Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate.

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

³ The chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.”

⁵ But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

⁶ Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. ⁷ A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. ⁸ The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

⁹ “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, ¹⁰ knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him.

¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

¹² “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.

¹³ “Crucify him!” they shouted.

¹⁴ “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

¹⁵ Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

¹⁶ The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. ¹⁷ They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” ¹⁹ Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Questions...

Jesus was not given a fair trial. In fact, it was one of the great legal travesties in history.

- **An innocent man was found guilty and sentenced to death yet not one person spoke out for him... why?**
- **And worse, a real guilty man was pardoned in His place... what's up with that?**
- **And when Jesus was abused and suffered torture, even then His disciples didn't come to his aid... and I wonder if I am guilty of not coming to His aid?**

☐ SILENCE (WHILE AN INNOCENT MAN IS FALSELY ACCUSED) [vv. 1-5]

- ✓ Verdict: **Guilty!**
- ✓ Sentence: **DEATH!**
- ✓ Conspirators complicity: **Treason!**
- ✓ Accomplices: **Torture!**

*“He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He did not open His mouth;
Like a lamb that is led to slaughter,
And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers,
So He did not open His mouth.”* (Isa. 53:7 NASB)

❑ SUBSTITUTION (WHILE A GUILTY MAN IS GRACIOUSLY EXCUSED) [vv. 6-15a]

- ✓ Jesus: *Innocent as a lamb*
- ✓ Barabbas: *robber, insurrectionist, murderer*

“Release JESUS! Crucify Barabbas! He deserves it!”

TO -OR-

“Release BARABBAS! Crucify Jesus!”

RESURRECTION

WHY?

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”

(1 Pet. 2:24 ESV)

☐ SUFFERING (THE GOD-MAN WAS SHAMFULLY ABUSED) [vv. 15b-20]

✓ Torture:

- Roman **“whip” = *flagellum or flagrum*** (leather whip of nine thongs with pieces of sharp metal or stone embedded in the end of each thong)
- Beaten on the face and head with clubs while blindfolded
- Mocking with the Purple Robe
- Crown of thorns crushed down on His head

✓ **Intent:** “To get the prisoner as close to death as possible so as to shorten the time to death at crucifixion.”

“Many were horrified at what happened to him. But everyone who saw him was even more horrified because he suffered until he no longer looked human.” (Isa. 52:14 CEV)

**And Jesus was not even
near the end of His
suffering!**

RESURRECTION