

Episode #613 Easter 2020 2: The Death and Burial

I. The death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ were the pivotal events in the history of God's work to redeem fallen mankind. All history before these events was marked by man's failure in spite of all God did for them. After these events is marked by God's success in spite of all man can do against Him. Our salvation was granted to us by these great events.

II. The death and burial of our Lord Jesus Christ is presented in Mark 15:25-47.

III. Mark 15:25-39. The Death of Our Lord.

- A. Verse 25. Jewish days were 12 hours of night, 12 hours of day. The third hour is 8:00-9:00AM. Romans did not crucify at night. The 3rd hour is that of morning sacrifice!
- B. Verse 26. The only accusation brought against our Lord, and the one under which He died. There was really no law against this. Herod was a usurper king, whereas He was of the line of David. By dying on the cross He acted as their King in a more profound way than anything else He could have done. Note: this does not say this is what was posted on the cross. This was the accusation inscribed in the Roman records.
- C. Verse 27. Next two robbers are crucified with Him. Same as Matthew, but different than the "criminals" of Luke 23:32, who were crucified at the same time He was. The criminals were right next to him, these robbers further out.
- D. Verse 28. Referring to Isaiah 53:12. All according to God's plan!
- E. Verse 29. This was the false accusation brought against Him during His Sanhedrin trial. These are not the common people, but those in league with the Jerusalem cabal who were responsible for crucifying Him.
- F. Verse 30. Their mockery. No, He would raise it again in three days as promised.
- G. Verse 31. This was a nonsensical mockery. Of course He had the power to save Himself if He wanted to. They act like He was a charlatan Whose miracles never really happened. But they did!
- H. Verse 32. Empty words: they would have hated and not believed in Him even if He had done this. The two robbers mocked Him (but not the second criminal of Luke). He did not answer. The wicked often mock the calamity of the righteous.
- I. Verse 33. This would be around noon to 3:00PM, when the sun is most overhead. Not a natural eclipse. The 9th hour was that of the evening sacrifice. He fulfilled both!
- J. Verse 34. Given in Aramaic, the language He used. Some note these are the first words of Psalm 22, "It is finished" are the last words. That Psalm was speaking of this. God turned His face from His Son as He took our despicable curse on Himself.
- K. Verse 35. These "some" clearly did not speak Aramaic. Eloi = God, Elias = Elijah.
- L. Verse 36. This would be an amazing sight. They would have liked to see it. "Sour wine" is vinegar, an example of the cruel kindnesses shown victims of crucifixion.
- M. Verse 37. Mark does not give His last words, just mentioning the loud cry. Pilate would be surprised at this: that He died so soon, as crucifixion victims usually lasted much longer. He died when He decided to, John 10:18.
- N. Verse 38. Divided the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. Opened a way to God's presence. Yet this was only one curtain. The Gentiles were not yet welcomed in. A man would have ripped this great curtain from the bottom. God did from the top. The Greek is *anōthen*, clearly meaning "from above."
- O. Verse 39. Even the Roman centurion recognizes this. Probably "a son of God," he would not have understood "the." How could God die? Because He said so!

IV. Mark 15:40-47. The Burial of Our Lord.

- A. Verse 40. These faithful women followed Him to the end. Where were the twelve? “James the Less” only mentioned here, probably like our “Junior.” Probably to distinguish him from the greater James John’s brother.
- B. Verse 41. These women were His financial supporters according to Luke. They were all Jews and faithful followers. “The Jews” did not all reject Him, as accused.
- C. Verse 42. Passover was also Preparation Day for the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The first day of Unleavened Bread was always a Sabbath, no matter which day of the week it fell on. In this case, it fell on Thursday.
- D. Verse 43. Joseph was a prominent member of the Sanhedrin, but not in on the illegal plot to assassinate Jesus. He waited for God’s government. It took courage to stand up against his fellow leaders, not to mention to go before Rome on behalf of One they had already executed. If Joseph had not done this the Lord’s body would have been cast with that of criminals, but that was not God’s plan.
- E. Verse 44. Pilate is amazed, as crucifixion usually kept its victims alive for days. He confirms this with the centurion. Again, He laid down His life when He saw fit.
- F. Verse 45. Pilate resented that the Jewish leaders forced him to crucify the Lord. He is willing to grant His body for honorable burial to get back at them.
- G. Verse 46. Joseph treats the body with high honor. Fine linens were used on rich dead. This was his own tomb, and this was the burial custom of the rich. These stones were meant to keep out grave robbers. They were hewn from the rock, and a track ran down to the tomb mouth. When the last rock was chipped away it would roll down and block the entrance. Many men with the right equipment would be needed then to move it. Casual grave robbers would be deterred.
- H. Verse 47. These women observe where He is laid. They plan to come back and honor Him in the future. They see the huge stone rolled in place, but in their grief do not seem to consider this or how inaccessible it would make His body. Of course, this sets up the amazing events of three days later when they find the stone rolled away.

V. Suffering on the cross was great, but the same suffering was experienced by many who were thus killed by the Romans. Yet the Lord Jesus Christ’s suffering was unique: He suffered not on His Own behalf, but for our many wickednesses and sins. God laid on Him the iniquity of us all. When we believe in Who He is, the Christ, the Savior of the World, and the Son of God, God’s representative in human form, and when we believe in what He did: dying for our sins on the cross, being buried, and rising again to prove God accepted His great sacrifice, then our sins will all be placed on Him on that cross and we will receive His righteousness. He will be our Savior! Do we believe that this very One Who died and was buried so long ago is the risen Savior Who can take away all our sin? Let us believe!

Mark 15: ²⁵ Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him. ²⁶ And the inscription of His ^[d]accusation was written above:

THE KING OF THE JEWS.

²⁷ With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. ²⁸ ^[e]So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And He was numbered with the transgressors.”

²⁹ And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! *You* who destroy the temple and build *it* in three days, ³⁰ save Yourself, and come down from the cross!”

³¹ Likewise the chief priests also, mocking among themselves with the scribes, said, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and ^[f]believe.”

Even those who were crucified with Him reviled Him.

³³ Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which is translated, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

³⁵ Some of those who stood by, when they heard *that*, said, “Look, He is calling for Elijah!”

³⁶ Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put *it* on a reed, and offered *it* to Him to drink, saying, “Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down.”

³⁷ And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last.

³⁸ Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that ^[g]He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, “Truly this Man was the Son of God!”

⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, ⁴¹ who also followed Him and ministered to Him when He was in Galilee, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

⁴² Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

⁴⁴ Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷ And Mary Magdalene and Mary *the mother* of Joses observed where He was laid.

Luke 23: ³² There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death.

Isaiah 53: ¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,
And He shall divide the ^[a]spoil with the strong,
Because He poured out His soul unto death,
And He was numbered with the transgressors,
And He bore the sin of many,
And made intercession for the transgressors.

John 10: ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”