

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

Feb 2012

LESSON 17 – GOD’S SERVANT – TRIUMPHANT BEFORE THE UNGODLY

INTRODUCTION:

- In grade school, were you a bully or the one that the bully picked on? Give an example.

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION:

Note: The other gospels provide many details about Jesus’ trial, crucifixion, and resurrection. Mark provides a brief but concise account, concentrating on the events he highlights. Jesus was brought to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor who normally resides in Caesarea. Pilate was probably in Jerusalem because during the Passover religious excitement and nationalistic feelings ran high, sometimes resulting in riots. Jesus’ response was not what anyone expected. According to Roman law, if Jesus did not defend himself, Pilate would have to condemn him. Nevertheless, when we respond God’s way as Jesus did, the result will always be victorious and triumphant!

Read Mark 15:1-15

Note: Barabbas (meaning “son-of-the father”) was not a murderer. He was an insurrectionist that wanted to overthrow the Roman government. Jesus was falsely accused by the Jews and condemned by Pilate for the very thing of which Barabbas was actually guilty. ¹ The Jews were not present at the trial because they would be ceremonially unclean before Passover. This is probably one of the reasons why Jesus spoke to Pilate.

1. What questions does Pilate ask Jesus?
2. Jesus died for many reasons. Which one does Mark highlight in verse 2? Why is that important to Mark?
3. How would you explain Jesus’ answer and behavior? Mk 10:42-45
4. What does Pilate’s behavior tell us about him? Why was he amazed? Vs 5 Why is civil order more important to him than justice?
5. Why is the crowd so animated and unwilling to listen to reason?

Read Mark 15:16-20

Note: By leading him through the streets, then out, the Jews saw the punishment and feared Roman justice but got respect for having the crucifixion outside the city gates. (Lev 24:14)

6. How did the Roman soldiers treat Jesus? Why were they so cruel?
7. Why was it necessary for Jesus to go through this trial and torture and then to die?

Read Mark 16:9-20

8. Who did Jesus appear to first? What did she do?
9. What were the disciples doing? How did they respond?
10. When Jesus appeared to the eleven what did He do? What task did He give?
11. How did the eleven respond to Jesus’ task (command)? What signs accompanied them? Vs 20

APPLICATION

- How do you respond when it appears that your Christianity is being mocked?
- How should we apply the task or command that Jesus gave to the disciples today?

He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. From prison and trial, they led him away to his death. But who among the people realized that he was dying for their sins--that he was suffering their punishment? He had done no wrong, and he never deceived anyone. ...But he was buried like a criminal ...But it was the LORD's good plan and the LORD's plan will prosper in his hands.

Isaiah 53:7-11 NLT

¹ Brooks, J. A. (2001). *Vol. 23: Mark* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (252). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.