

## A Study of Mark – Lesson 46

### Mark 15:29-47 On The Cross

15 <sup>29</sup> 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, / <sup>30</sup> come down from the cross / and save yourself!” / <sup>31</sup> 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! / <sup>32</sup> Let this Messiah, / 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.

<sup>33</sup> At noon, / darkness came over the whole land / until three in the afternoon. / <sup>34</sup> And at three in the afternoon / Jesus cried out in a loud voice, / “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” / (which means / “My God, / my God, / why have you forsaken me?”).

<sup>35</sup> When some of those standing near heard this, / they said, / “Listen, / he’s calling Elijah.”

<sup>36</sup> Someone ran, / filled a sponge with wine vinegar, / put it on a staff, / and offered it to Jesus to drink. / “Now leave him alone. / Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” / he said.

<sup>37</sup> With a loud cry, / Jesus breathed his last.

<sup>38</sup> The curtain of the temple was torn in two / from top to bottom. /

<sup>39</sup> And when the centurion, / who stood there in front of Jesus, /

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saw how he died, / he said, / “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

<sup>40</sup> Some women were watching from a distance. / Among them were Mary Magdalene, / Mary the mother of James the younger / and of Joseph, / and Salome. / <sup>41</sup> 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.

<sup>42</sup> It was Preparation Day / (that is, the day before the Sabbath). / So as evening approached, / <sup>43</sup> Joseph of Arimathea, / a prominent member of the Council, / who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, / went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. / <sup>44</sup> Pilate was surprised to hear / that he was already dead. / Summoning the centurion, / he asked him if Jesus had already died. / <sup>45</sup> When he learned from the centurion that it was so, / he gave the body to Joseph. / <sup>46</sup> So Joseph bought some linen cloth, / took down the body, / wrapped it in the linen, / and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. / <sup>47</sup> Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph / saw where he was laid.

### ***Vocabulary***

1. **To hurl:** To throw something. To toss.
2. **Staff:** Long walking stick
3. **Centurion:** One Roman in charge of 100 men. Centurians made up cohorts, which made up the Roman legions.

## **Questions**

1. Why would passersby insult the crucifying and dying men?
2. The religious people, Pharisees, etc., mocked Jesus among themselves. Why didn't they do it more publicly?
3. How many hours was "darkness upon the land?"
4. Why were people at this very public execution? Why was it public?
5. Name some of the women "standing at a distance?"
6. Where do you think the disciples were during this time? How do you think they felt?
7. In today's talk, what do we call the execution day of Jesus the Christ?

## **Notes:**

1. The Romans executed by crucifixion. It was reserved for criminals, but not for Roman citizens. Jesus and the thieves were placed by the side of the most traveled road into Jerusalem as a lesson to the people of Judea. All executions were public and often an occasion for a picnic or form of macabre entertainment. This continued through history. In the USA, public executions are not allowed, but there are always many witnesses to see the execution and testify that it took place. It is often filmed in the USA for police records.
2. Generally crucifixion took from 3-7 days for a person to die. Jesus had been beaten and was physically weak. He died in 5-6 hours. Also, the bones were generally broken to be sure the

person was dead. In the case of Jesus, his bones were not broken.

3. Elijah was considered the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. We do not know that Jesus called out to Elijah.
4. Jesus was offered what we would call a drugged drink to help with the pain. He turned it down.
5. “It is because Jesus did *not* come down from the Cross that we believe in him. ”The death of Jesus was absolutely necessary and the reason was this: Jesus came to tell men of the love of God; more, he was himself the incarnate love of God. If he had refused the Cross or if in the end he had come down from the Cross, it would have meant that there was a limit to God’s love, that there was something which that love was not prepared to suffer for men, that there was a line beyond which it would not go. But, Jesus went the whole way and died on the Cross and this means that there is literally no limit to God’s love, and that there is nothing in all the universe which that love is not prepared to suffer for men, that there is nothing, not even death on the cross, which it will refuse to bear for men.

Material for this lesson is taken from *The Daily Study Bible Series*.  
*The Gospel of Mark*, by William Barclay.