

Jesus the Reason

Jesus the Sacrifice

Mark 15

Detailed Outline from the Sermon on March 16, 2008

How did people respond or react to the crucifixion, and why?

The soldiers (23)

Violence, participation, opportunism

Why? Orders? Bloodlust?

Roman Authorities (24)

Sign, "The King of the Jews" in multiple languages.

Why? Arrogance? Mockery

Passersby (29)

Hurled insults – we have cable news stations devoted to this.

Why? Mob mentality

Religious Authorities (31)

"He cured others. Now let him save himself!"

Why? Jealousy

The other two being executed (32)

Initially joined in the abuse.

Why? Displaced shame

The man with the sponge (36)

Did he mean to help? Was he hopeful or joining the mocker?

Why? Confusion

The centurion (38)

“Surely this man was the Son of God.”

Why? Faith

The women (40-41, 47)

At least 3 Mary’s

Why? Servant hood, Affection

Joseph of Arimathea, with Nicodemus (43, 45-46, John 19:39)

Why? Respect

Pontius Pilate (1-15, 44)

Not eager to sentence Jesus. His wife even warned him not to...his job was to keep peace.

Why? Disdain

The crucified criminals beside Jesus (Luke 23:39-43)

One – hope and repentance. The other - shortsightedness.

John the Apostle (John 19:26-27)

Why? Loyalty

The man who saw the spear in Jesus’ side (John 19:35-37, Zechariah 12:10-13:1)

Why? Responsibility

How do people around us respond to the crucifixion of Jesus? And why?

When people talk about the cross, or Christ’s crucifixion, how do they reference it?

1. Martyrdom – atrocity
2. They *don’t*.
3. Ignorance.

4. Did it really happen?

How do we respond to the crucifixion?

We feel **remorse** (Matthew 27:5)

Horror, loss, anguish; a significant amount of devotional reflection ties us to Judas. Judas felt remorse. Not suggesting...but a healthy dose of devotional literature explores our commonality with Judas and our participation in the execution of a righteous man.

We feel **relief** (Romans 3:25, Ephesians 2:13, Colossians 1:20, 2:14)

“In Christ you who were far off have been brought near.”

Jesus made peace through the blood shed on the cross. Our failures and their consequences have been nailed to the cross.

We feel **gratitude** (Ephesians 1:17)

Almost all of the verses are uttered in gratitude, and if we talked to Paul instead of reading, I'm guessing we'd hear outright celebration in his tone.

We **celebrate!** (Colossians 2:15, Romans 5:6-8)

We **declare**, and even **boast!** (Acts 2:23, 1 Corinthians 1:23-2:5, Galatians 6:14)

May I never boast except in the cross of Lord Jesus Christ.

We acknowledge the **irony** (1 Corinthians 1:17-31)

that this whole notion can seem strange to a rational world. Paul acknowledges this...

We live with **reverent** fear (1 Peter 1:17-19)

But Peter urges us to hold to it with reverent fear.

We **serve** (Hebrews 9:14, Revelation 1:5-6)

And more than once we're told that our cleansing and redemption is for the purpose of service unimpeded by our separation from God.

We **imitate** Christ (Matthew 10:38, Luke 9:23, Romans 6:6, Galatians 5:24)

“And anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”

“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”

“For we know that our old self was crucified with him...”

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.”

We present ourselves as **living sacrifices** (Romans 12:1-2, Galatians 2:20)

We live this way (agape)

It is not longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.

We **gather courage** (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Fixing our eyes on Jesus who endured the cross.