



## Unit .26

### Session .05

# Jesus Is Crucified

## Scripture



## Mark 15:6, 11-20,33-39

**6** At the festival Pilate used to release for the people a prisoner whom they requested. ... **11** But the chief priests stirred up the crowd so that he would release Barabbas to them instead. **12** Pilate asked them again, “Then what do you want me to do with the one you call the King of the Jews?” **13** Again they shouted, “Crucify him!” **14** Pilate said to them, “Why? What has he done wrong?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” **15** Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them; and after having Jesus flogged, he handed him over to be crucified. **16** The soldiers led him away into the palace (that is, the governor’s residence) and called the whole company together. **17** They dressed him in a purple robe, twisted together a crown of thorns, and put it on him. **18** And they began to salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” **19** They were hitting him on the head with a stick and spitting on him. Getting down on their

knees, they were paying him homage. **20** After they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple robe and put his clothes on him. They led him out to crucify him. ... **33** When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. **34** And at three Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lemá sabachtháni?” which is translated, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?” **35** When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “See, he’s calling for Elijah.” **36** Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, fixed it on a stick, offered him a drink, and said, “Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down.” **37** Jesus let out a loud cry and breathed his last. **38** Then the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. **39** When the centurion, who was standing opposite him, saw the way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

**How do you think Barabbas responded to this turn of events in his favor?  
How should we respond to Jesus taking our place?**

**How do the details surrounding  
Jesus' physical torture and  
crucifixion affect you?**



## 99 Essential Doctrines

### Aspects of the Atonement

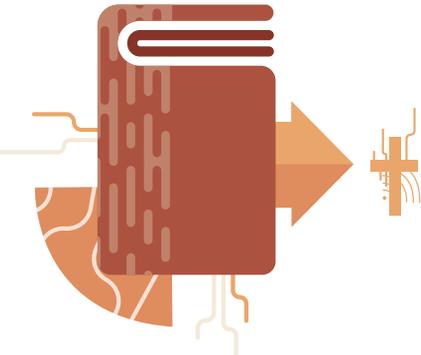
Christ's substitutionary death on our behalf stands at the center of His atoning work. Without this work, there is no gospel (1 Cor. 15:3). While this substitutionary aspect is central to the atonement, His death also supremely demonstrates God's love for sinners (John 15:13; 1 John 4:10). It shows us how seriously God takes sin. It satisfies every requirement for God to be able to forgive the failures of humanity. And it puts Christ's cosmic victory over sin, Satan, and death on display through His resurrection (Col. 2:15). Every aspect of the atonement should inspire gratitude, praise, and a desire for obedience, because it is only through Christ that we are reconciled.

## **Main Point**

# **Jesus willingly took upon Himself the punishment for sin.**

**What are some ways Christians might be guilty of mocking Jesus in their lives today?**

**How does it affect you to know Jesus was forsaken and rejected so that you could have forgiveness for your sins?**



## **Christ Connection**

Unjustly condemned to death, Jesus willingly took up His cross and suffered the judgment our sins deserve. At the moment He died, the curtain in the temple sanctuary was torn in two, signifying that sinners have access to God through the blood of Christ. The crucifixion of Jesus is the center of history, revealing God's holiness and justice, our sinfulness and unrighteousness, and Christ's humility and love.

**What does the brutality of the cross tell you about the gravity of our sin?  
What does it say about the glory of God's grace?**

## In Defense



Early historians like Thallus and Julius Africanus documented this mysterious phenomenon that left the world scratching their heads in confusion.



## Head

**How is the crucifixion good news in light of how horrific it was?**

**How does Jesus' sacrifice shed light on the nature of our sin?**



## Heart

**How does knowing the extent of Jesus' sacrifice increase your love for Him?**

**How does it affect you to know Jesus bore the punishment our sins deserved?**



## Hands

**Why is it important to talk about sin when sharing the good news of what Jesus has done for us?**

**Why should the love of Jesus displayed on the cross motivate us to sharing His message with others?**

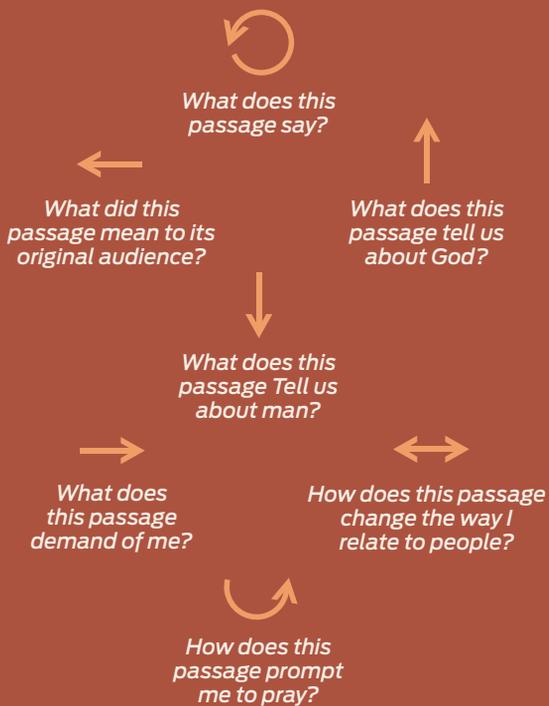
# Daily Devotions



Day 1

## Mark 15:6-15

### The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Pilate offered to release one of two prisoners, as was his custom during the Passover festival. To his surprise, and likely disappointment, the crowd asked for the freedom of Barabbas, a murderous insurrectionist, and for the crucifixion of Jesus, a man he could not seem to find much fault with.

Pilate, of course, reluctantly released Barabbas and delivered the Messiah to be crucified. Imagine how unbelievable the news must have been for the murderous convict when he found out his scheduled execution was canceled, that a man named Jesus would be crucified, and that he was now free to go.

For those of us who know Christ as Lord, the news of deliverance means so much more than escaping death; it means having a new life in Christ and eternity of enjoying our Lord together.

We might be tempted to think we would never be guilty of preferring Barabbas to Christ, but in some sense, that is what we do when we choose sin over Christ. Instead, let us never stop remembering all that Jesus suffered on our behalf so we can endure and never give up running the race of faith.

**How does it impact you to know that Jesus suffered on your behalf?**

# Mark 15:16-20

A whole company of soldiers took Jesus away to their private quarters so they could beat Him and ridicule Him further. They dressed Him in royal colors, crowned Him with thorns, and then mocked Him as the so-called “King of the Jews.”

Consider the scandal of all this: This mockery was delivered by mere men against the Maker of men! Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the sovereign Lord over all, the eternal Word of life, the Maker and Sustainer of all. Yet here we see Him shredded, bruised, and bloodied, treated worse than a criminal, and mocked when He should have been worshiped.

The result was complete humiliation and degradation. The goal was not just to break Him down physically but emotionally and spiritually as well.

Jesus was torn to shreds and mocked so we could be made whole and reconciled with God.

**In what ways is Jesus mocked today?**

# Mark 15:21-32

Mark highlighted the mocking of Jesus more than any other Gospel writer. Jesus was mocked by soldiers. He was mocked by passersby. He was mocked by the two thieves occupying crosses next to Him.

Ironically, we still find truths in their mocking. For example, they mocked Him for saying the temple would be destroyed and rebuilt in three days. But what they didn't realize was that when Jesus said He would raise the temple in three days, He was using the physical temple as a metaphor for His body, which is the true temple of God.

Furthermore, through His cross and resurrection, Jesus would fulfill everything that the temple prefigured. Through His death, there would be no more need for temple sacrifices because God and sinner would be reconciled through Him. Through the cross, the presence of God is no longer found in a place but in a person—Jesus.

**How can believers turn the mocking of Jesus into an opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus?**

# Mark 15:33-41

For centuries before Jesus, the glory of God was considered to be veiled in the holy of holies, in the center of the Jewish temple. Now with the sacrificial death of Jesus, the glory of God is freely accessible to all who come to Him through faith in Jesus. The dwelling place of God is no longer in a place but a person (Jesus) and His people (the church). The old order is done, and the new order is here.

Each year, only one person in all of Judea was allowed to enter the holy of holies, and only on one day of the year and only with the blood of a sacrifice (Lev. 16). But with the holy and perfect sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, the only sacrifice that could actually stand in our place and atone for our sins, the veil is no longer needed and the sacrifices are no longer needed. All that is needed is faith in Jesus, the Son of God, who laid down His life to save us.

**What reasons do you have for believing Jesus is the Son of God sent for your salvation?**

# Mark 15:42-47

Imagine what it must have been like for Joseph of Arimathea, and any other disciples present, to remove Jesus' body from the cross. To pull the nails out of His hands—hands that once healed and helped many. To free His feet from the cross—feet that took Him all over teaching, healing, and performing miracles. To wrap His broken body—the very embodiment of the love of God. In that moment, Jesus' disciples would have wrestled with the hard question: Was this really the Messiah?

If the story ended there, then we could know He wasn't, of course. Even though the centurion thought the way Jesus died was significant enough to call Him the Son of God, it is Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, according to the Scriptures, that assures us of His identity and the success of His mission (1 Cor. 15).

Jesus was beaten, flogged, pierced, wrapped in linen, and buried. He was dead; everyone knew it. And three days later, He rose again!

**How should Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross cause us to think about death for ourselves and others?**