

SESSION 22

JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED, BURIED AND RAISED FROM THE DEAD

The Roman soldiers took Jesus through Jerusalem. They made Jesus carry the heavy wooden cross that they would nail him to. They started to walk to where the crucifixion would take place. Jesus had been beaten very badly so he would have been very weak. It would have been very hard for him to carry the cross.



MARK 15:21

²¹ A passerby named Simon, who was from Cyrene, was coming in from the countryside just then, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. (Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus.)

The soldiers saw a man passing by. His name was Simon. He was from Cyrene, which is in modern-day Libya. The soldiers asked Simon to carry the cross for Jesus, and so Simon carried the cross. By now, a large crowd was following them. Some of the people were Jesus' family and friends. They did not have to go too far to reach the place. It was just outside the city walls.



MARK 15:22,23

²² And they brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha (which means "Place of the Skull"). ²³ They offered him wine drugged with myrrh, but he refused it.

The place was called Golgotha. It means 'place of the skull' in the Aramaic language. Some people say it was a hill that looked like a skull.²⁴⁸ Sometimes, English Bibles use the name Calvary for that place. The Romans crucified people in that place because it was near the city. Many people walked past there. The Romans wanted many people to see what happened to people who broke their laws.

248. skull - the big bone inside the head

HIS STORY: THE RESCUE

When they arrived, some people tried to give Jesus a drink. It was *wine drugged with myrrh*. Myrrh was nice smelling gum that came from a tree. When people drank it, they felt less pain. The women in Jerusalem made it to help people who were going to be crucified. But Jesus did not want to drink it.



MARK 15:24,25

²⁴ Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross. They divided his clothes and threw dice to decide who would get each piece.

²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.

At 9 o'clock in the morning, the Roman soldiers crucified Jesus. First, they took off all of his clothes. God's story says that they were throwing dice to see who would get each bit of his clothing. Then they crucified Jesus by hammering²⁴⁹ long metal spikes through his hands and feet. They left him hanging on the wooden cross.

David had written about this many years before in one of his Psalms about the Messiah. David was the King of Israel but also a prophet who wrote down the words of God. God knew everything that would happen to his Son.



PSALMS 22:16-18

¹⁶ My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs; an evil gang closes in on me.

They have pierced my hands and feet.

¹⁷ I can count all my bones.

My enemies stare at me and gloat.

¹⁸ They divide my garments among themselves and throw dice for my clothing.

When the Romans crucified criminals, they would put a sign up near them. The sign said what law the criminal had broken. Then everyone could see why that person was being crucified. But Jesus was not a criminal. He had not broken any law. So the sign that the Romans put near Jesus said *The King of the Jews*. It said that because that was who Jesus said he was. That was the charge²⁵⁰ that the Jews had brought against Jesus. They did not believe that he was the King of the Jews. They had seen all the amazing things he had done, but they still did not believe he was who he said he was.



MARK 15:26

²⁶ A sign announced the charge against him. It read, "The King of the Jews."

Jesus was hanging on the cross. Everyone in that area could see him. This was just what Jesus had said would happen. Remember when Jesus was talking to the Pharisee, Nicodemus? Jesus said that he would be lifted up just like Moses had lifted up the bronze snake. When the Israelites looked at that bronze snake, they would not die from the bites of the poisonous snakes. Now Jesus was

249. **hammering** - to hit something with a hammer; a hammer is a tool for putting nails in things

250. **charge** - in a law court, a charge is the thing people say someone has done to break the law

SESSION 22: JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED, BURIED AND RAISED FROM THE DEAD

hanging high on a cross. That was what he meant when he told Nicodemus that he would be *lifted up*.



MARK 15:27

²⁷ Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

On either side of Jesus was a man who had also been crucified. One of them started to scoff²⁵¹ at Jesus.



LUKE 23:39-43

³⁹ One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!"

⁴⁰ But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die?" ⁴¹ We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

⁴³ And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."

These two men were criminals. They had broken the law and so they were being crucified. One of them did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God. He said that if Jesus was really the Messiah then he should save himself and save them too. But the other criminal reprimanded him. He said that it was right that they were being punished. They had broken the law. But he said that Jesus had not done anything wrong. Then he spoke to Jesus. He said, "*remember me when you come into your Kingdom*". This man did believe that Jesus was the Messiah. He knew that Jesus was the rightful king. Jesus knew that this man believed that he was the Son of God. This man also knew that he was a sinner. He knew that only God could save him. So Jesus told him that later that day, he would be with Jesus in paradise.²⁵² After that man had died, he would go to be with Jesus in heaven.

God's prophet, Isaiah, had written some things about Jesus many years before. He wrote that Jesus would be *counted among the rebels*. That means that he would be grouped with people who were criminals.



ISAIAH 53:12

¹² I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.

Mark wrote about the people passing by on the road where Jesus was hanging on the cross. Many people were mocking²⁵³ Jesus. Mark described what some of the Jewish religious leaders called out to Jesus.

251. **scoff** - to call out bad things about someone to show that you do not respect or like them

252. **paradise** - another name for heaven

253. **mocking** - making fun of someone or something in a cruel or bad way

HIS STORY: THE RESCUE



MARK 15:31,32

³¹ The leading priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus. “He saved others,” they scoffed, “but he can’t save himself! ³² Let this Messiah, this King of Israel, come down from the cross so we can see it and believe him!” Even the men who were crucified with Jesus ridiculed him.

They called out to Jesus that he should save himself and come down from the cross. They did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah. They *ridiculed* him. They were joking about how he said that he was the King of the Jews. They said he should save himself just like he saved other people. Jesus could have saved himself. He was the Son of God and so he could do anything. But he did not save himself. And God loves his Son in every way. God could have saved his Son. But God did not save him.

Jesus was nailed to the cross at nine in the morning. At noon, in the middle of the day, Jesus was still hanging on the cross.



MARK 15:33

³³ At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o’clock.

Mark wrote that from 12 noon until 3 pm, *darkness fell across the whole land*. God made it dark at that time. He did that to show what was happening to Jesus. God had turned away from his Son.

Many thousands of years before, Adam and Eve had turned away from God. Ever since then, people had been born into the world of sin and death. They were separated from God. People could not just come to God in the way that they wanted to come. That would not be a true way to do things because people were separated from God. So after Adam and Eve, all people were born and grew old and then their bodies died. After their bodies died, they were separated from God forever. Each person who was born after Adam and Eve was like this.

Only the people who came to God in the way that he said – by killing animals – could come to him. People had to kill animals to show that they knew what the truth was. They were showing that they knew that they were sinners, separated from God. They knew that they should die for their sins. So they had to kill animals to show that they knew that only God could save them. But they sinned over and over again. And so they had to kill animals over and over again. The blood of the animals did not pay for their sin. It was just a sign that they knew the truth about their real relationship with God. God wanted them to know that there had to be death as the payment for sin. God knew that in the future, there would be a final payment for sin.

God is perfect. He always does what is right. He always does things that are real and true. That is who God is. He never does things that are wrong. He never does things that are not true. So God had to have a real and a true relationship with people. The truth is that people are separated from God because of their sin. Since Adam and Eve, people have been born outside the garden. They are born into the world of sin and death. They can never be perfect like God is perfect. They can never return to the garden. People cannot fix their broken relationship with God. Only God can do that.

SESSION 22: JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED, BURIED AND RAISED FROM THE DEAD

God loves people even though they turn away from him. He loves people even though they sin and disobey his perfect laws. God wants to rescue people so they do not have to be separate from him forever. He wants to make a way for people to come back to him. God promised that he would do that. He said that a man would come who would defeat Satan. A Rescuer would come. He would pay for the sins of the whole world – once and for all time.

So God chose another man to take Adam's place. This man was Jesus. Jesus was the Son of God. He was not the same as other people. He was God, so he was not born as a sinner like all other people were. He did not disobey God. He did not turn away from God. He was perfect, just like God is perfect. God chose his Son to be born as a real man. He did that so that Jesus could live and die as a real man too. God chose his Son Jesus to die for the sins of the whole world.

So when Jesus was hanging on the cross, it went dark for three hours. God did that to show that he was turning away from Jesus. Jesus was the Lamb of God. He took on the payment for the sins of all people. He was dying to pay for those sins. So God turned away from Jesus because Jesus was carrying the sins of all people. This was a terrible time for God and for Jesus. God had to turn away from his Son who he loved so much. And Jesus had to be alone at a time when he needed his Father very much. His Father, God, had turned away from him. God had to turn away because Jesus was paying for all of the sins of the world as if they were his own. Jesus was separated from God because he was dying to pay for the sins of all people. God showed what a terrible time it was by making the sky go dark.

When it was 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Jesus called out to his Father. His Father had turned away from him so he called out to him. He needed his Father at this time of terrible pain and suffering. He used the Aramaic language, so the people there did not understand what he was saying. They thought he was calling out to God's prophet, Elijah.



MARK 15:34-37

³⁴ Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

³⁵ Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. ³⁶ One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. "Wait!" he said. "Let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down!"

³⁷ Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last.

Jesus called out loudly and then he died. Jesus died because he wanted to die. He could have saved himself, but he did not. He knew that he had to die to rescue the people of the world. John wrote the words that Jesus called out when he died.



JOHN 19:30

³⁰ When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

HIS STORY: THE RESCUE

Jesus said, “*It is finished!*” He meant that the payment for the world’s sin had been made. God’s great plan to rescue people that he had started so long ago was now finished. A way had been made for people to come to God. This was what God had planned to do. He wanted to have a real, true and close relationship with people. So Jesus, God’s Son, took on the sins of all people. And he died to pay for those sins for all time. That is why Jesus said it was finished. He had made the payment for sin that fixed the relationship between God and people forever. Mark described something that happened right at the time that Jesus died.



MARK 15:38

³⁸ And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

Remember that there was a thick, heavy curtain hanging in the temple? It divided the two rooms inside the temple: the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. The Most Holy Place was where God stayed among his people. Only the high priest could go in there once each year to sprinkle the blood of animals on the top of the Ark of the Covenant. If any other person went in there, they would die.

But now, Jesus had made the ultimate²⁵⁴ sacrifice for sin. Because he did that, people were free to come to God at any time. God’s story says that the curtain was torn from the top to the bottom. God was showing that he was the one who tore the curtain. Now there was nothing separating God from the people. Jesus had made the final payment for sin. Remember when Jesus was eating the Passover meal with his disciples? He said to his disciples that his blood “*confirms the covenant between God and his people.*” He meant that he would die and his blood would be shed. And because of that, the agreement between God and people would be made right. And that is what happened. God tore the curtain in the temple to show that the agreement had been fulfilled or completed - finished.

Jesus died on a Friday. The next day was the Jewish Sabbath, when no work could be done. The Sabbath started at sunset on Friday.



MARK 15:42

⁴² This all happened on Friday, the day of preparation, the day before the Sabbath.

It was nearly the Sabbath day. So the body of Jesus had to be put into a tomb before the Sabbath began. There was a rich man called Joseph from a village called Arimathea. He was a member of the Jewish council or Sanhedrin. Joseph believed that Jesus was the Messiah. He was a disciple of Jesus but he did not tell anyone. He was afraid of what the Jews would do to him if they knew.



MARK 15:43-47

⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea took a risk and went to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. (Joseph was an honored member of the high council, and he was waiting for the Kingdom of God to come.) ⁴⁴ Pilate couldn’t believe that Jesus was already dead, so he called for the Roman officer and asked if he had died yet. ⁴⁵ The officer confirmed that Jesus was dead, so Pilate told Joseph he could have the body. ⁴⁶ Joseph bought a long sheet of linen cloth. Then he took Jesus’ body down from

254. **ultimate** - final and complete

SESSION 22: JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED, BURIED AND RAISED FROM THE DEAD

the cross, wrapped it in the cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone in front of the entrance.⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where Jesus' body was laid.

Joseph went to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised that Jesus was already dead. So he checked with a centurion and he found out that Jesus had died. Then Pilate gave the body of Jesus to Joseph. Joseph wrapped the body in *linen cloth*. This was cloth that cost a lot of money. He put the body in a tomb and put a large flat stone over the door of the tomb. This stone was put there so that no people or animals could touch it. It was very heavy and hard to open. Some women, who were followers of Jesus, were there watching the tomb.

John also wrote about what happened to the body of Jesus after he died. He wrote that Nicodemus helped Joseph with the body. Nicodemus was the Pharisee who had come to talk to Jesus at night. He was also part of the Jewish high council. Nicodemus helped Joseph to take the body down from the cross. He brought myrrh²⁵⁵ and aloe.²⁵⁶ These were nice smelling spices that cost a lot of money. Nicodemus helped Joseph to wrap the body with the cloth and the spices. Then he helped Joseph to put the body in the tomb.



JOHN 19:38-42

³⁸ Afterward Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders), asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus' body. When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came and took the body away.³⁹ With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night. He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes.⁴⁰ Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth.⁴¹ The place of crucifixion was near a garden, where there was a new tomb, never used before.⁴² And so, because it was the day of preparation for the Jewish Passover and since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

They did not have much time to put the body in the tomb. The Sabbath was going to start soon. So they put the body in a tomb close to where Jesus had been crucified. The tomb belonged to Joseph. He had not used it yet. Many years earlier, Isaiah had written that the Messiah would be put in the tomb of a rich man.



ISAIAH 53:9

⁹ He had done no wrong
and had never deceived anyone.
But he was buried like a criminal;
he was put in a rich man's grave.

After the Sabbath had ended, three women went to the tomb. It was very early on Sunday morning. These women were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome. Mark wrote before

255. **myrrh** - nice smelling gum that comes from a tree

256. **aloe** - nice smelling gum that is dried and made into perfume or incense

HIS STORY: THE RESCUE

that they had also been there when Jesus was crucified. They went to the tomb to put spices on the body of Jesus.



MARK 16:1-5

¹ Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. ³ On the way they were asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴ But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside.

⁵ When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked,

The women were on their way to the tomb. They thought about who would help them to move the heavy stone that was over the door of the tomb. But when they got there, the stone was gone. So they went inside the tomb. They saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting there. This young man was one of God's spirit messengers, an angel. He had presented himself in human form to speak to them. Luke and John wrote about this too. They said that there were two angels there. Mark only talked about one, probably because only one angel spoke to the women.



MARK 16:6-8

⁶ but the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body. ⁷ Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died."

⁸ The women fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered, and they said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened.

The women were very amazed and afraid. The angel told them not to be alarmed.²⁵⁷ He knew that they were looking for Jesus from Nazareth who had been crucified. He told them that Jesus was not there because he had risen from the dead. He showed them the place where the body had been placed. But there was no body there. The angel told the women to go and speak to the disciples. He said that they should tell the disciples that Jesus was going ahead of them to Galilee. The angel said that the disciples should go and meet Jesus there. He said, "*You will see him there, just as he told you before he died.*" The angel wanted them to remember that Jesus had told the disciples that he would die and rise again.

The women ran from the tomb. They were shaking because they were so surprised and amazed. They did not talk to anyone as they went. But Luke wrote that they went to talk to the disciples. They did what the angel had told them to do.

257. **alarmed** - to be amazed and afraid

SESSION 22: JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED, BURIED AND RAISED FROM THE DEAD



LUKE 24:8-12

⁸ Then they remembered that he had said this. ⁹ So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. ¹¹ But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it. ¹² However, Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened.

Later, Jesus appeared²⁵⁸ to many people. He showed himself to Mary Magdalene, to some other men who were walking, and to his disciples.



MARK 16:9-14

⁹ After Jesus rose from the dead early on Sunday morning, the first person who saw him was Mary Magdalene, the woman from whom he had cast out seven demons. ¹⁰ She went to the disciples, who were grieving and weeping, and told them what had happened. ¹¹ But when she told them that Jesus was alive and she had seen him, they didn't believe her.

¹² Afterward he appeared in a different form to two of his followers who were walking from Jerusalem into the country.

¹³ They rushed back to tell the others, but no one believed them.

¹⁴ Still later he appeared to the eleven disciples as they were eating together. He rebuked them for their stubborn unbelief because they refused to believe those who had seen him after he had been raised from the dead.

Then the disciples walked with Jesus to Bethany. God's story tells us that when they were in Bethany, God took Jesus up to heaven. Jesus had finished his work, so he went back to be with his Father. That is where he is today.



MARK 16:19

¹⁹ When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand.

On the cross, Jesus took on all the sins of all people. God turned his back on Jesus and judged him for our sins. God judged Jesus and passed sentence²⁵⁹ on him. That sentence was death. Jesus died to pay for the sins of all the people of the world. Jesus did that and then God brought him back to life. God was showing that he accepted the payment that Jesus had made. The sentence was over. The full and final payment for the sins of all people had been made.

258. **appeared** - showed himself to them

259. **passed sentence** - when a judge tells someone what their punishment will be

HIS STORY: THE RESCUE



1. How did God's prophets know what would happen to Jesus?
2. Why did God have to turn away from Jesus when he was dying on the cross?
3. What did Jesus mean when he said "It is finished"?
4. Who raised Jesus from the dead?
5. Can people do anything at all to pay for their own sins and save themselves?



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