

OUR SAVIOR

MARK 15:33-39; 16:1-8

MOCKED (MARK 15:33-36)

1. What does the darkness represent?

It is the representation or mark of divine judgement (Is. 5:30; 13:10, 11; Joel 2:1, 2; Amos 5:20; Zeph. 1:14, 15; Matt. 8:12; 22:13; 25:30). Some references include “weeping and gnashing of teeth” along with darkness. It is a common phrase used to indicate the horror and suffering of God’s judgement.

2. Why did Mark (and Matthew) record Jesus’ cry of, “...why have you abandoned me (forsaken me)?”

Mark’s quote was in Aramaic while Matthew’s was in Hebrew. Both translations indicated that Jesus was quoting Psalm 22:1. Jesus was expressing the agony of His soul. Both authors wanted to capture the fact that Jesus felt keenly His abandonment by the Father. He took God’s wrath as the substitute for sinners.

3. Why did the crowd say that he was calling for Elijah?

Their mockery basically meant, “Let the forerunner come and save this so-called Messiah.”

As usual they did not understand his words. They thought he was calling for Elijah the prophet. The irony is that Elijah already came in the person of John the Baptist who presented Jesus as the Messiah.

KILLED (MARK 15:37-39)

1. What was the significance of Jesus, “letting out a loud cry”?

Jesus demonstrated amazing strength during intense suffering. His shout revealed that His life did not just fade away because of the suffering, but that He gave it up voluntarily.

2. What remarkable event occurred at Jesus’ death?

The curtain (or veil) in the temple, which separated man from God was torn in two from the top to the bottom. This signified the way into God’s presence was opened by the death of His son. Jesus’ sacrifice purchased freedom from the law and freedom from the entire sacrificial system.

3. What was the centurion's job?

He was a Roman officer who commanded 100 soldiers. He was the supervising officer of the crucifixion. He would have led many crucifixions. Seeing the strength Jesus had to shout before he died, along with the darkness and earthquake (Matt. 27:51-54), convinced the centurion that Jesus was the "Son of God".

RESURRECTED (MARK 16:1-8)

1. Why is it mentioned that the women were on their way to anoint Jesus' body?

Because they were expecting Jesus to still be in the tomb. Jews did not embalm the dead. Anointing with spices was an act of love showing respect and to mask the stench of a decaying body. The spices were costly so the women would not have spent money if they knew he was gone.

2. Why did Mark, unlike the other gospel writers, include the conversation of the woman?

Mark is highlighting how difficult it is to move a stone from a tomb. He mentions Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome. Luke 24:10 records the group included Joanna and other women in the group. These women knew that they would not be able to move the stone. They didn't know that when they left on Friday that the stone was sealed, and a guard was stationed in front.

3. Why did the angel proclaim that "Jesus of Nazareth" had risen?

This proclamation was to inform everyone that the man in the tomb was exactly the man you killed. The women did not go to the wrong tomb nor was Jesus body moved or stolen.

4. Why did the author mention Peter?

Peter was not being singled out as the leader of the disciples; he was being singled out because of his denials of Christ. His guilt may have kept him from going, so the mention of his name would have been a sign of assurance. Peter may have abandoned Jesus, but Jesus did not abandon Peter.

SUMMARY / APPLICATION

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to the eleven and said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation,” (Mark 16:15). He is saying the same to us. Jesus’ work has allowed the Lord to work in us, through us, and for us. What a privilege we have to share with those who have yet to hear of what Jesus did for us all

