

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"CRUSHED FOR US!" | MARK 15: 16-32 | CAMERON SEELY

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What does it show about a person who enjoys mocking and insulting their enemies?

"Shamed for Our Safety" Mark 15: 16-20

Roman soldiers mock and beat Jesus before leading Him to be crucified, taking the shame for the guilty even though He was innocent. **When was the last time you were treated unfairly? How does that impact how you see the injustice Jesus faced?**

"Weak for Our Strength" Mark 15: 21-23

Jesus is so weak the soldiers compel a man named Simon to carry the cross. **How does this show Jesus' humanity? Why is that important when it comes to His sacrifice?**

"Pierced for Our Transgressions" Mark 15: 24-26

Jesus is crucified and His clothes are divided. He is given the mock title the "King of the Jews". **How can Godly grief produce repentance like it says in 2 Corinthians 7:10? Why is repentance and brokenness important for coming to Jesus?**

"Rebuked for Our Peace" Mark 15: 27-32

As Jesus hung on the cross, many shouted insults and challenged Him to show His power. **Why does God often refuse to prove Himself to people's challenges? What are signs that someone really does want to find God?**

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

As Jesus is crucified, He is beaten, scourged, mocked and insulted by soldiers, citizens, religious leaders and thieves. He endured it all out of love to save the world. **Have you been like Jesus and enduring persecution or have you been like so many others who mock others? Have you struggled with being satisfied with Jesus' death on the cross as proof enough of His love and power? How can you take time to really repent this week for your sins? Ask God to give you the humility and appreciation for all Jesus endured so you could be free and live with Him.**

Crushed for Us! **(Mark 15:16-32)**

Opening & Announcement:

- Hello everyone, how are we this morning/afternoon? Amen, God is good and I'm thankful to be sharing His word with you all today **(Welcome people joining online 2nd service)**
- My name is Cameron Seely, I'm the High school youth director here at Calvary Murrieta. And I'm happy to bring one last sweet announcement regarding construction of our upcoming Youth Center! (Obviously this one is something I'm pretty excited about)

Youth Center Update & Encouragement:

It has been a long time coming, but I'm happy to say and many of you have seen that we have begun work on the new Youth Center for our Middle School and High School students here at Calvary. We have broken ground and are in the early stages of construction as we speak. This is truly exciting, not only because we all have seen the beautiful fruit of the renovations to Calvary these past few years. But for us serving in 678 and RISE because it marks the closing of a chapter in the ministry where we have felt like a nomadic tribe, moving from place to place, room to room, and never really having a place for students to call home. Now, it has been a sweet season for many reasons, so please don't think God hasn't been moving because of a lack of a building. But this final phase is really something we are looking forward to, as we aim to win the hearts of students for Jesus, through meaningful Jesus relationships and discipleship. I'd like to thank all of you here today who have committed to supporting the building project in any way thus far, and would be so appreciative for any who would consider joining those in investing. (All support is incredibly precious to us, now if anyone is able to invest a suggested \$125 a month for the next 4 months, it can be a huge blessing to the final phase.)

Now, let's enter into the word shall we? Turn with me to Mark 15:16 & Allow me to pray!

Intro/Recap:

- As we continue our way through Mark's gospel we should take time to recap Brian's message from last week to set the scene for what we are about to take in today.
- In the past weeks, we have seen Jesus subjected to false arrest, an illegally conducted trial before the Sanhedrin, and Christ the King delivered to a wannabe

ruler Pilate, and the exchange between this conflicted & corrupt Roman governor before the heated crowd he is seeking to appease.

- Ultimately, after all of Pilate's efforts to spare Jesus, knowing He isn't guilty **(And that is an important note for our talk today)** He ultimately falls victim to the crowd's approval, as He releases Barabbas the guilty man it leaves Jesus the Innocent to be sent to his demise.

The Innocent Crushed for the Guilty!

- Many Biblical scholars note themes and emphasis in each of the four gospels, in their recounting and relaying of Christ's life. Mark is most notably reflecting Jesus as **"Servant King"**
 - As Jesus said Himself in Mark 10:45: **"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."**
- Jesus did serve the lowly, feed the hungry, and heal the sick. Yet all of the acts of service He displayed in His earthly ministry. None compare to what Mark recounts for us today.
- Today we will look at the greatest evidence of the Servant King. We will see the glory of the Savior of the world, as He is crushed for the Sins of His people. As Charles Spurgeon once coined it....Majesty in Misery!

Slide #1 "Isaiah's Prophecy of the Suffering Messiah"

Before we read Mark's account of Christ's suffering, I felt it was hugely important to see the parallels of Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 53, as he heralds the coming Messiah, and the suffering He would endure of His people. Really vital to remember Isaiah lived 700 years before Christ and these events we read today. (Read Isaiah 53:1-6)

As we look to Jesus our suffering King, it's my prayer and my hope that we would for a moment try to meditate on as He endured for us. To realize that our guilt and shame was placed upon the innocent so we could be free. He took the shots, so we could be saved.

Allow yourself as we move forward through these passages to see what our sin costs, and also to realize how loved we are.

Slide #2 “Shamed for our Safety” (Mark 15:16-20)

- Jesus would have been turned over to the Roman Battalion as we see here.
 - **Commentator David Guizk makes the point that these soldiers would have been most likely tense and stressed during Passover Season here in Jerusalem. As hundreds of thousands of Jewish worshippers flocked upon the city. (a stressful time for “peacemakers”)**
 - **This private mocking would have been a moment of Comic relief for them, a stress reliever for violent men, with pent up frustration.**
- This scene is tough for me to read, as I like some of you hate the shame of embarrassment. I can't stand the feeling of being mocked for anything, let alone for something I didn't do.
- Yet here is our Jesus, scourged (meaning beaten with rods and whips) like a guilty criminal needing to confess. Blooded and exhausted he's privately mocked by dressing him up like a beaten King.
- Purple was a color that signified royalty, the crown to show He is King, and the rod as a scepter of power. Yet they don't esteem him, they don't acknowledge His royalty (And that crown is of thick spiny thorns), and they strike him with the very rod to add insult to injury. (Mention crown of thorns at the Bible college?)
- **Truly, when we stop and think about it. Jesus was meant to be clothed in Purple, Adorned with Crown, and Respected for His power.**
- Instead, He is shamed by men who know nothing of His love and grace. Who would possibly later on realize the glory of this man (Mark 15:39, The Witness of the Centurion at the cross) but for now they mock and shame him because of the great love He has for His people.

But we have to Remember, this is what Isaiah said He came to do... “He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Charles Spurgeon the Prince of Preachers put in beautifully when preaching on this passage years ago, he writes:

“It amazes us that such superlative goodness should have been treated with such fiendish malice, that such mercy should have been in such misery, that such majesty should have been reduced to such despising.

Truly, He was “despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.” And they do not exaggerate who speak of Him as the Emperor of sorrow and the enthroned Prince of misery.”

-Charles Spurgeon

I say all this to remind us, HE was shamed, so that we would be safe for this type of shame. That we might be safely hidden in His love. He was shamed so that we might be safe from the shame of our sin.

Slide #3 “Weak for our Strength” (Mark 15:21-23)

- After this they lead Jesus away, and as was custom of the Roman crucifixion process, they would have the victim carry the very cross beam that he would be crucified upon. (The believed weight of the crossbeam could have been anywhere from 75-125 pounds)
- Jesus was truly carrying His cross as He calls us to do today!
- Now, because we know Jesus was actually physically human, we see the evidence of His humanity here as He is **too weak to carry the cross beam**. Now the Romans wanted their victims to be alive when they were crucified, so having Jesus die of His wounds and exhaustion wasn't an option.

Simon of Cyrene:

- In the midst, to keep the walk out of the city going, they COMPELL a man named Simon to help Jesus.
- As David Guzik makes a point of, no Jew was going to willingly help this supposed blasphemer. And the Romans did not need another uproar, so they force Simon, a Jewish man from a part of Northern Africa none as Cyrene. He would have been a foreigner to the Land. There most likely for the Passover, and probably very reluctant to help this man.
- Yet by God's great grace He is given the opportunity, that not even Simon Peter was afforded. To assist the Lord of Lords and King of Kings in the crowning moment of His glory.
- Now why God has Simon do this, there are plenty of theories and speculations. But it's worth noting that Mark uncharacteristically gives details about Simon that the other writers don't. And that's that He is the Father of Alexander and Rufus.
- Christians throughout history have made speculation that this Rufus mentioned here, could be the same Rufus Paul mentions in Romans 16:13, as “chosen of the Lord” and a brother who was a great help to him.
- Could it be that this close and special encounter with the Suffering King might have impacted the heart and life of Simon so much that it spanned generations. And lead to salvation to His sons.

Regardless, this is a beautiful picture of Jesus' relation to us, and the fact that in our weakness He is strong. Praise be to God that He became weak, so that we might have access to His strength.

That he struggled that cross out of the city gates to Calvary for us.

Slide #4 "Pierced for our Transgressions" (Mark 15:24-26)

Here Jesus is pierced. Crucified hands and feet to the wooden beams meant for criminals of the highest crimes in Rome. Yet on this Friday afternoon, it was an innocent man, THE most innocent man in history. On mission, face set like a flint with glorious purpose, as Hebrews 12:2 puts it.

**"looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."
Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)**

It's essential to realize that it is our sins that He was pierced for. As David would pen in His famous Psalm 51 confession, Its against you and you alone that I have sinned.

Christ ultimately endured this painful execution, because the penalty of sin was meant for those who are guilty of it. We like Barrabbas have gone free, as He bears the full weight of our penalty.

This was our cross, this my cross, it was the penalty of my sin against a righteous and good God.

This is heavy thing to wrestle with, the realization of our guilt. The shame tied to what we have done. All of us.

But it's something I believe is again ESSENTIAL for us as we come to Christ and follow Him. And its this principle here....

"For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death." 2 Corinthians 7:10

Please here me in this encouragement, what I'm not saying is sit in that guilt and shame and make it your identity your former life. In Christ it's "Its not longer I who live, but Christ who lives within me". Our Suffering Servant King, took the full brunt so we

wouldn't have to feel it.. Thats the whole idea of Isaiah 53. He was crushed, He was scorned, He was shamed, and He was pierced that we might not be.

But if we don't process our guilt. Really sit in it and be broken. Then we can't fully appreciate the cross. Some us here try to run from the feelings of guilt and shame. I say face it, allow it lead you lovingly to His feet and embrace His grace.

When our head begins to fall in guilt or shame because of what we have done or will do. Be broken, be low, be humble and then turn your eyes upon the cross.

Old Rugged Cross Lyrics:

On a hill far away, stood an old rugged Cross
The emblem of suff'ring and shame
And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain

So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

Oh, that old rugged Cross so despised by the world
Has a wondrous attraction for me
For the dear Lamb of God, left his Glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary

So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

In the old rugged Cross, stain'd with blood so divine
A wondrous beauty I see
For the dear Lamb of God, left his Glory above
To pardon and sanctify me

This ugly scene of shame, weakness and suffering is our hope. Jesus invites to this cross to lay open our sin before Him, to realize its weight, and to rest peacefully in His grace as we realize He has taken our place.

Slide #4 : “Chastied (Rebuked) for our Peace” (Mark 15:27-32)

Yes, believe it or not it's not over. If being alone, being shamed, being beaten and crucified wasn't enough.

We still see Christ facing a crowd with words to spit and toss in Rebuke and mockery as He hangs with a sign reading “King of the Jews” above Him.

- Side note: This reeks of the kid or player on a team who talks a big game after the fight or game is over right? Someone who didn't have the word or confidence when we are right in front of them, but once someone is weak and vulnerable, then they start the chatter. I digress.

What a chaotic scene. Jesus, the Majestic King, the Healer, and teacher hanging from a vicious Roman Cross. With streams of hateful mockery flying His way from all directions. Believing that in some way they are superior in their stance.

His Chastisers and Accusers Note:

- The Robbers/Murderers He is crucified alongside Him mock Him (Matthew 27:38)
- Passers-by derided him, wagging their heads in pride, “You who said you destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days” misquoting and falsely accusing Jesus again. (Not even realizing He is fulfilling exactly what He said He would do, by seeing His temple destroyed and RISEN three days later...Hes the GOAT)
- Then the Religious leaders and Scribes take their shots. Their insults are pointed and sharp. But somehow in it, revealing who Jesus was and What he came to do! “He Saved Others, yet He cannot Save Himself.”

He didn't save Himself, so that He could save ALL. (And praise God for that) Imagine if He had saved himself. What would that mean for them, and for us?

The Lack of True Faith in the Religious Leaders:

- “Let the Christ, the King of Israel come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.”

- False...this type of heart posture WILL NOT see Jesus with the eyes of faith. Because its an evil heart of unbelief.
- These men watched Jesus heal, help, feed, cast out demons, and raise from the dead, they had every opportunity to see, and yet here they are.

I encourage you today, if this has been your heart in relation to faith in Christ. If your struggle has been waiting for Him to SHOW HIMSELF, or REVEAL SOME SPECIFIC Miracle, you are repeating disingenuous display of the Pharisees and Scribes. He has done enough. If this scene doesn't show you His love for sinners and the world. Idk what else will.

Please turn from this mindset and believe on Him. What He has done and revealed to us is enough. He's worthy of your trust and faith, and "It is by grace you have been saved through faith, not of works lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8)

Conclusion:

To close us out today and get off my soap box lol

We have a great savior. A great King in Jesus Christ. And to simply boil the cross down as the place where Jesus died for me. It doesn't move our hearts as it should because it doesn't communicate truly ALL HE ENDURED for you and I.

So today, please don't be discouraged by your sin, rather think of the weight of suffering it cost Him. Turn to Him in faith if you haven't. And worship and love Him all the more if you have.

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

2 Corinthians 5:21

Our King knows suffering, and He suffering for us.

- Carried our Shame so we would never have to carry it again.
- Weakened Himself in human flesh, so we could do all things in Him.

- Was crushed and pierced for our Transgression, so we wouldn't never have to know God's wrath.
- Was mocked and reticuled as a criminal, so that I could go free and have peace.

What a friend we have in Jesus amen?