

REVEALED

An Exposition of the Book of Mark



The Gospel is Different

Mark 15:21-41

Overview

- **Man looks on Outward Appearance, God looks to the Heart**
 - God, as revealed in the Bible, works in opposition to way man often does
 - Throughout Old Testament (1st Testament), from Abraham & Sarah to David & Goliath: God works through what appears to be the smaller and weaker to communicate the stronger
 - This communicates truth faith and trust in God
 - Jesus is beaten, mocked, and made fun of by passersby & high priests, & robbers
 - All of these thought Jesus to be weak and defeated
 - They did so because they measured Jesus to standards of men, not God
 - Jesus was hidden from them in plain sight because they were blinded by their own value standards
- **The Son of God forsaken, the payment of sin forever taken**
 - Jesus screams out: My God, My God why have you forsaken me?
 - Quoting Psalm 22 (as are other portions of this story)
 - Darkness pervades
 - In this moment Jesus is drinking the full wrath of God, forsaken by Father for sins of Gods people – everyone has abandoned him in this hour
 - In this moment Jesus is receiving our punishment though He was an innocent King
 - This atonement had been anticipated from eternity past
 - From Genesis 3.15 in the seed, to Abraham & Isaac, the Passover, the Day of Atonement all of this pointed to this moment where Christ laid down his life...all of human history looked forward to this day all of human history looks back to this day
 - In Heaven, we will worship a bloodied lamb...the Cross is the pinnacle event of history
 - Jesus utters a loud cry: Miraculous as he would have had his lungs collapsed
 - Due to darkness and this cry, Romans soldier utters that Christ must be the Son of God
 - Curtain tearing in two indicates that Christ's work was finished, punishment was taken & now through repentance and faith sinful man can enter into the Holy of Holies and commune with God (this is the Gospel!)

Questions

Discussion Starter: What are some moments that have changed history in general or your life in particular? How is this pivotal moment on which Christianity centers on, unique among other world religions?

1. Why is it you think God uses the “foolish things of the world to shame the wise?” Why not have Jesus be an earthly King who conquers victoriously and call people to himself?
2. What is it in the Christian life that calls us in opposition to the ways of the world that may make us look “weak?”
3. Discuss how Christ was the fulfillment of Old Testament (1st Testament) Scripture and how everything was pointing towards this event and how Christ fulfilled it. How does this help you read the Scriptures?
4. Discuss why the cross is such a centerpiece of the Christian faith.
5. What exactly was accomplished on the cross by Jesus for the believer?
6. How does this event inform us on Tuesday as much as it does on Sunday?
7. How awful must our sin be that it would cost such a payment? How great must God’s love be that He provided the payment?