

1. **Introduction**: Pilate sentenced Jesus to be crucified.
2. **Mark 15:16-20**: *And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him. ²¹ And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.*
 - Everything about the scourging and crucifixion process was designed to maximize pain and humiliation for the crucified.
 - The crime against Rome of which Jesus was accused and for which He was sentenced to crucifixion was that He claimed to be King of the Jews.
 - After scourging, Jesus was sent to the place where He would be crucified.
 - The usual procedure required the one being crucified to carry the cross-bar of his cross to the place of crucifixion. Scourging so weakened Jesus that another person (Simon of Cyrene) was commandeered to do the job.
 - Crucifixions were usually carried out by 4 specialists headed by a centurion.
3. **Mark 15:22-25**: *And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. ²⁵ And it was the third hour when they crucified him.*
 - Jesus was offered wine mixed with myrrh intended to dull His awareness of pain, but He refused it. He was determined to be fully alert as He suffered.
 - Jesus' clothes were removed. The soldiers cast lots to decide what each should take.
 - The cross-piece was attached to the vertical member. Jesus would have been placed on the cross as it lay on the ground. His hands and arms extended along the cross-piece and His feet resting a wedge.
 - Two soldiers held His body down while the others drove iron nails into His hands and feet. Then the cross with Jesus attached was raised to its vertical position and dropped into a prepared hole and firmly fixed to stand.
 - It was about 9AM when they finished the gruesome task, and Jesus now hung on the cross, secured to it by nails.
4. **Mark 15:26-27**: *And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left.*
 - The crucifixion process fulfilled prophecy including Him being numbered among transgressors, a robber on the right and another on the left.

5. **Isaiah 53:5:** *“He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*
- The religious leaders persuaded Pilate to execute an innocent man. Pilate retaliated by ordering the inscription of the charge against Him to read, “THE KING OF THE JEWS.”
 - Jesus took the place of Barabbas, but He was crucified for the benefit of sinners.
 - The other two crucified were likely *Barabbas*’ associates. They were probably surprised to find Jesus rather than Barabbas on a cross. The word translated “robbers” can also be translated as “revolutionaries.”
6. **Mark 15:29-32:** *And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!”³¹ So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself.³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.*
- In quick sequence, Mark mentions three groups of scoffers – (1.) those who passed by, (2.) chief priests and scribes, and (3.) those crucified with Jesus.
 - All expressed ridicule and mocked Him. The theme seemed to be “He saved others but cannot save Himself.”
 - The truth was that Jesus could have saved Himself, but He refused to save Himself so that many could be saved through His sacrifice.
7. **Mark 15:33-35:** *And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”³⁵ And some of the bystanders hearing it said, “Behold, he is calling Elijah.”*
- The sixth hour was noon. The sun was at its highest point for the day and darkness came over the region. OT prophets had used supernatural darkness as a sign of God’s judgment (Amos 8:9-10; Mic. 3:5-7; Zeph. 1:14-15).
 - Though Jesus’ suffering and death was necessary to enable salvation as intended by God, those who brought about His suffering and death were subject to God’s judgment. The sign of darkness at noon confirmed that.
 - At about 3 o’clock in the afternoon, Jesus cried out in Aramaic with a loud voice using a phrase from verse 1 of David’s prophetic Psalm 22.
8. **Psalm 22:1, 14-15, 16-17:** *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;¹⁵ my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.¹⁷ I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me;¹⁸ they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.*

- Gentile soldiers apparently thought Jesus was referring to Elijah, but Jesus' Jewish enemies knew better. They knew the reference well.
 - All the sins of those to be saved were laid on Jesus. That overwhelming load caused Jesus to cry out in anguish.
9. **Mark 15:36-38:** *And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."*³⁷ *And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last.*³⁸ *And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.*
- The sour wine mentioned was a standard drink for soldiers and workers and was considered refreshing, better than water at quenching thirst.
 - Someone said, *"Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."* The implication being that help from Elijah was a foolish idea.
 - After drinking wine from the sponge, Jesus cried out one last time, dismissed His human spirit, and breathed His last.
 - The veil separating people from the Temple's most holy place was torn in two, from the top to the bottom.
 - The veil of separation was not thin. It was as thick as the width of a man's hand.
 - Being torn in two from top to bottom implied that access to holy of holies was no longer to be limited to the high priest once a year.
10. ^{AMP} **Mark 15:39:** *When the centurion, who was standing opposite Him, saw the way He breathed His last [being fully in control], he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"*
- The Centurion in charge of the crucifixion had directed each step of the way since he was given charge of Jesus after His scourging.
 - Throughout the cruel process, he had closely watched as Jesus was stripped of His clothes, nails were driven into His hands and feet, the cross with Jesus attached was erected, Jesus was taunted, and Jesus suffered.
 - Different from the victims in many other crucifixions the Centurion had participated in, Jesus' response was amazingly calm and accepting even to His last breath. The Centurion was amazed. It seemed supernatural.
 - He said, *"Truly this man was the Son of God!"* The Centurion had perceived the truth that eluded the religious leaders.
11. **Mark 15:40-41:** *Now some women also were watching from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome.*⁴¹ *When Jesus was in Galilee, they used to accompany him and minister to Him; and there were also many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.*
- These women were faithful followers who had provided for Jesus' needs.
 - To the women listed in verse 40, Matthew adds the mother of the disciples James and John (Mt. 27:56). John adds Mary the mother of Jesus, His mother's sister, and Mary the wife of Cleopas (Jn. 19:25).

- The women had remained as close to the cross as the soldiers permitted.
 - Of the disciples, only John was near the cross.
12. **Mark 15:42-43:** *When evening had already come, because it was the preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent and respected member of the Council (Sanhedrin, Jewish High Court), who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God—and he courageously dared to go in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.*
- Jesus died on Friday about 3 PM. The Sabbath would begin at sundown (about 6 PM). No work could be done on the Sabbath.
 - Thus, there was little time in which to take the body of Jesus down from the cross and prepare it for burial.
 - From Luke 22:50-51, Joseph of Arimathea was “a good and righteous man,” a member of the Sanhedrin who “had not consented to their plan and action.
 - Joseph approached Pilate and asked to take charge of Jesus’ body.
13. **Mark 15:44-45:** *Pilate wondered if He was dead by this time [only six hours after being crucified], and he summoned the centurion and asked him whether He was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion [that Jesus was in fact dead], he gave the body to Joseph [by granting him permission to remove it].*
- The Romans verified that Jesus was dead. In Jn. 19:34 we learn that a soldier pierced Jesus with a spear to be certain of His death.
 - Roman verification that Jesus was truly dead while still on the cross should have ended all notions that Jesus was taken from the cross alive.
14. **Mark 15:46-47:** *So Joseph purchased a [fine] linen cloth [for wrapping the body], and after taking Jesus down [from the cross], he wrapped Him in the linen cloth and placed Him in a tomb which had been cut out of rock. Then he rolled a [large, wheel-shaped] stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph were [carefully] watching to see where He was laid.*
- As it neared sundown, Joseph and others rinsed Jesus’ body, anointed it with oil and spiced resins, and then wrapped it in a linen cloth, all as dictated by Jewish burial customs.
 - They hurriedly moved the body to an unused burial cave belonging to Joseph. They rolled a large stone in front of the entrance.
 - The faithful women who followed Jesus were carefully watching to be sure they knew where Jesus was buried. Clearly believing Him to be dead, they intended to complete the anointing of His body after the Sabbath.
 - As Matthew points out Mary Magdalene was there with the other Mary sitting opposite the burial cave entrance that had been closed with a stone.
 - They were gazing at the tomb trying to make sense of the strange events.