

## Mark 15-16

**Background:** Pontius Pilate was the Roman Governor of Judea. Herod Antipas was the son of Herod the Great, a non-Jewish, Rome-appointed king of Judea. Neither Pilate nor Herod lived in Jerusalem, but because of the heightened security in Jerusalem at Passover, they were both staying in the city at the palace built by Herod the Great, known as the Praetorium. The Sanhedrin was the high court of the Jews, made up of chief priests, elders and teachers of the law. Under Roman jurisdiction, they did not have the authority to impose the death penalty.

### Jesus Before Pilate (vs. 1-15)

1. What does vs. 1 imply about the duration of the meeting of the Sanhedrin?
2. According to Luke 23:1-15, what were the charges brought against Jesus? How was Herod (Antipas) involved?
3. How does Jesus fulfill the prophecy in Isaiah 53:7?
4. What does Pilate know about the motives of the chief priests who accuse Jesus?
5. Describe Barabbas, the man who is released while Jesus is condemned.
6. Why does Pilate ultimately give in to the demands of the crowd?

### Jesus' Humiliation, Crucifixion and Death (vs. 16-41)

7. Why do you think the soldiers put a purple robe and a crown of thorns on Jesus? What's the irony in the written notice of the charge against Jesus that is posted on his cross?
8. Identify the different groups of people who mock or ridicule Jesus.
9. Using the Jewish method of designating time, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., what time is Jesus crucified?
10. What happens between noon and 3 p.m.? What does the prophet Amos say about this in Amos 8:9-10?
11. Psalm 22 was written by David, Israel's greatest king, when he was unjustly suffering at the hands of evil men. Match these verses about David's experience in Psalm 22 with verses about Jesus' experience in Mark 15:  
Psalm 22:1 -  
22:6-7 -  
22:8 -  
22:16-18 -
12. Why do you think Jesus quotes this Psalm on the cross? How is he misunderstood by those standing nearby?
13. The thick curtain of the temple separated the Holy Place, accessible only to priests at certain times, from the Most Holy Place, where the presence of God actually lived, hovering above the Ark of the Covenant. This room was only accessible once a year on the Day of Atonement when the high priest alone would enter, very cautiously, to bring the sacrificial offering that paid for the sins of all the Jewish people. What do you think is the significance of the curtain tearing "from top to bottom?" What does that mean for you?
14. How does the centurion's statement in verse 39 reveal the central theme of Mark's gospel?
15. Mary Magdalene's presence at Jesus' crucifixion is mentioned by all four gospel writers. What does Luke 8:1-3 say about her that might explain her devotion to Jesus?
16. What's the reason for your devotion to Jesus? How has he transformed you? Have you shared that with someone who might not know Jesus?

**Jesus' Burial and Resurrection (15:33-16:20)**

17. Who is Joseph of Arimathea and what does he do? Why would that require courage on his part?
18. What does Pilate's surprise indicate about Jesus' death? How does Pilate confirm that Jesus is really dead?
19. What do the women get up early Sunday morning to do? What do they realize on their way to the tomb?
20. Matthew's gospel identifies the young man in white as an angel. Why do you think the angel singles Peter out when he tells the women to go and inform the disciples that Jesus is risen, and will meet them in Galilee?
21. What seems to be the common response of everyone who hears about Jesus' appearances?
22. What does baptism represent, according to Romans 6:3-4? What do you think it means to "believe" in Jesus Christ?

**Sermon Notes**

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**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Passage:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What I needed to hear today:** (something to remember, put into practice, change in my thinking, change in my behavior)