

Jesus hadn't come to free the people from political oppression but from spiritual oppression. And victory over sin and death required that Jesus remain on the cross and take the punishment for us all.

### 3. Religious Leaders

*31 In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! 32 Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.*  
- Mark 15:31-32 NIV

The religious leaders didn't recognize Jesus, they viewed Him as a threat to their positions of power. They were so intent on protecting their power that they missed what they should have seen, the Messiah had come. Instead, they sent Him to the cross, through the Roman authorities, and there they mocked Him as He carried out God's plan. They said He saved others but can't save himself. Ironically, they were right. Jesus couldn't save Himself if He was going to do God's will and save the world. He could only save others if He laid His life down for them.

*The religious leaders refused to give up control and recognize Jesus as Messiah. Are there areas in your life where you're contending with God for control? Ask yourself if you are willing to relinquish control, lay down your plans and accept God's will. If you aren't ready, pray for God to change your heart, but if you are willing, ask Him for your next step.*

#### WRAP-UP

The soldiers, the crowds, the religious leaders and even the criminals being crucified mocked Jesus. But Jesus knew and accepted the consequences of completing His mission and following God's plan. In Hebrews it says He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. All because of the joy He found in offering us eternal life. We won't always understand why God does what He does. But when life isn't easy and it doesn't make sense, we can trust that God sees beyond the pain and into eternity. He can be trusted because He is loving and He is good.

#### MEMORY VERSE

*...For the joy set before him he [Jesus] endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

- Hebrews 12:2 b NIV

#### Challenge –

*This week during times of praise and prayer give God genuine worship as you recognize Him as King of kings and Lord of lords.*

## Mocking Jesus Gospel of Mark Ch. 15 - Week 2

### INTRODUCTION

In this passage we follow Jesus from Pilate's sentencing to the cross at Golgotha. The incredible agony of His final hours is painfully difficult for us to try to comprehend. It was much more than the overwhelming physical pain. Jesus endured ridicule and mocking from all sides as the weight of the sin of the world pressed down upon Him. We have all experienced mocking, either as the perpetrator or the target. We mock what we see as weak to make us feel strong. We mock those we disagree with to make us feel right. We mock what we feel is inferior to make us feel superior. It is a unique kind of cruelty meant to demean, hurt and humiliate.

#### Ice Breaker

*Did you watch curling during the Olympics this year?*

#### Key Passages

*16 The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. 17 They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. 18 And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" 19 Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. 20 And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. ... 29 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30 come down from the cross and save yourself!" 31 In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! 32 Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.*  
- Mark 15:16-20, 29-32 NIV

### STUDY QUESTIONS

#### 1. The Soldiers Mocked

Jesus was taken away to the Praetorium where hundreds of Roman soldiers gathered as their prisoner was mocked. They represented the

strength of Rome, and they represented Caesar, the conqueror of Jerusalem. The Jews had dared to call this man their king as he rode a donkey into Jerusalem. But the soldiers showed their contempt for that claim as they mocked Him.

*17 They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. 18 And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" 19 Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him.*  
- Mark 15:17-19 NIV

*6 I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.*  
- Isaiah 50:6 NIV

*31 Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. 32 He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him;*  
- Luke 18:31-32 NIV

*In Mark 15:17-19 what did the soldiers specifically do that showed their rejection of Jesus as king? Look at the details given in Isaiah 50:6 as one example of the prophecies about the suffering servant of God. What does Jesus' conversation with His disciples in Luke 18:31-32 reveal about His understanding of who He was, why He came and what would happen to Him?*

After flogging, beatings and the torture of thorns in His head Jesus' strength was depleted, yet it was expected that a criminal would carry the heavy beam of his cross, on his shoulders, up the hill of Golgotha, to the place of his crucifixion.

*20 And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. 21 A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. 22 They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull").*  
- Mark 15:20-22 NIV

*Jesus may not have been physically capable of carrying the weight of the wooden beam, but what was the spiritual weight of the cross that He alone could carry?*

*23 Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. 24 And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. 25 It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. 26 The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the jews. 27 They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left.*  
- Mark 15:23-27 NIV

*25 "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."*  
- Mark 14:25 NIV

*18 They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.*  
- Psalm 22:18 NIV

*9 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*  
- Zechariah 9:9 NIV

*12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*  
- Isaiah 53:12 NIV

The events as recorded in Mark 15:23-27 confirm what had been prophesied by Jesus at the last supper and throughout the Old Testament. As difficult as it is to understand, this was God's plan and always had been.

## 2. The People

*29 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30 come down from the cross and save yourself!"*  
- Mark 15:29-30 NIV

*19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." 20 They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" 21 But the temple he had spoken of was his body.*  
- John 2:19-21 NIV

Ironically the people who cried Hosanna as He entered Jerusalem were likely among those who insulted Jesus on the cross. Those were the people who were suppressed under Roman rule, looking for a king to save them from their oppressors. But Jesus had failed to overthrow Rome as they had hoped.

*Look carefully at the people's words. Was Jesus in fact going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in 3 days (John 2:21)? If Jesus had saved Himself as they challenged Him to do, what would be lost?*