



Mark 15

The Irony of the Cross

A. Blaspheming the Anointed One

[Daniel 9:25-26, Mark 14:61-65]

B. Mocking the King of Kings

[Mark 8:31 a-b, 15:32a, Isaiah 53:3]

C. Accusing the Messiah of Treason

[Mark 14:57-61, Hebrews 10:20-22]

D. Taunting the Savior of the World

[Mark 15:31b, 35-36, Matthew 20:28]

E. The Ministry of Reconciliation

[Isaiah 53:4-12, I Corinthians 1:18,
2 Corinthians 5:19, John 14:6]

[I Corinthians 1:18 NLT] The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

[2 Corinthians 5:19 NLT] For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them.

[John 14:6] "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the father but by me"

Discussion Questions/Prayer:

[1] How does Isaiah 53:3 describe the Messiah?

[2] How does Hebrews 10:20-22 relate to the Messiah's role?

[3] What is the significance of the message of the cross as described in I Corinthians 1:18?

[4] Read 2 Corinthians 5:19 and I Corinthians 1:18. How does the cross symbolize reconciliation?

[5] What does John 14:6 reveal about Jesus being the way to the Father?

[6] Pray, thanking God for the gift of reconciliation through the cross and the salvation He provided through Christ that transformed our lives.

"THROUGH PETER'S EYES"
SUNDAY'S READING CHALLENGE
Read Mark 16

[Daniel 9:25-26] Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. ²⁶ And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing . . .

[Mark 14:61-65] But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" ⁶² And Jesus said, "**I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.**" ⁶³ And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? ⁶⁴ You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death. ⁶⁵ And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" And the guards received him with blows.

[Mark 8:31 a-b] And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed . . .

[Mark 15:32a] Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.

[Isaiah 53:3] 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.

[Mark 14:57-61] And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, ⁵⁸ "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" ⁵⁹ Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰ And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" ⁶¹ But he remained silent and made no answer. Jesus is falsely accused at his trial of threatening to destroy the Jerusalem temple and remove the sacrificial system.

[Hebrews 10:20-22 NLT] By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. ²¹ And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, ²² let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

[Mark 15:31b] "He saved others, but He cannot save Himself"

[Mark 15: 35-36] And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." ³⁶ 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."

[Matthew 20:28] . . . the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. "