

Study Guide

Mark 15:1-20

Theme- God can turn our Failures into Good Things

1. Share with each other how a failure or weakness led to a good thing.
2. Read Mark 15:1 & 10. Notice how the Sanhedrin was driven by “envy”. How can we tend to be driven by “envy” (see also Eccl. 4:4)?
3. Read Mark 15:2-5. Notice how Pilate was driven by fear. (see also John 19:8 and Mark 15:15). How can we tend to be driven by fear when making decisions?
4. Read Mark 15:6-15. Barabbas was a bloodthirsty revolutionary. He represents force and demand. The Jewish people could relate. They wanted to demand their freedom from Rome. Notice how Barabbas and the crowd were demanding by nature (see also Luke 23:23). How can we tend to be demanding of Jesus? Discuss.
5. Read Mark 15:16-20. Notice the arrogance of the soldiers. They are condescending as they mock the Savior. How can we often look down on others with condescending attitudes?
6. All these human failures led to the crucifixion and ultimately salvation for those who receive it. Notice how God can turn our failures into good things. How does that give you hope today? How does the love of Jesus change us?

Message Slides

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I. Jesus before the Sanhedrin (v.1)

"And as soon as it was morning, the **chief priests** held a consultation with the **elders** and **scribes** and the **whole council**. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate."

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Envy killed Jesus!

Mark 15:10- "For he perceived that it was out of **envy** that the chief priests had delivered him up."

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Eccl. 4:4- "And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person's **envy** of another. This too is meaningless, and chasing after wind."

T.S.- They pass Him on to Pilate

II. Jesus before Pilate (v.2-5)

"And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed."

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Fear killed Jesus!

John 19:8- "When Pilate heard these words, he was more afraid."

Mark 15:15- "So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, ... delivered him to be crucified."

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Joshua 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

III. Jesus Before the Crowd (v.6-15)

"Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" And they cried out again, "Crucify him." And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the

more, "Crucify him." So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified."

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Demand killed Jesus!

Luke 23:23- "But they were urgent, **demanding** with loud cries that he should be crucified. **And their voices prevailed.**"

IV. Jesus Before the Soldiers (v.16-20)

"And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. 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."

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Arrogance killed Jesus!

Prov. 16:18- "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall."

Where do you find yourself today?

1. Envy killed Jesus- Someone else has what I want.
2. Fear killed Jesus- I will only do what is safe.
3. Demand killed Jesus- I want what I want.
4. Arrogance killed Jesus- At least I'm not as bad as them.

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