

THE RELATIONSHIP RESTORED

BIBLE PASSAGES: Mark 15:22–16:7

THE POINT: Jesus gave His life to be my Savior.

TODAY'S PURPOSE: To lead adults to outline how our broken relationship with God was restored through Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

VBS SCRIPTURE: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. *Colossians 1:15-16*

BONUS VERSE: In Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them. *2 Corinthians 5:19a*

NOTES

BIBLE STUDY

INTRODUCTION

When things break, you can try to fix them yourself or you can call an expert. Some of us are good at fixing almost anything, but the rest of us need the help of a pro. The most valuable thing we can ever possess is our relationship with God our Father. However, we have broken that relationship through our sin. The only One who can restore it is God's Son, Jesus Christ.

JESUS' CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH (MARK 15:22-41)

The usual Roman practice was to force the condemned prisoner to carry the horizontal section of the cross to the site of execution. After Jesus was severely beaten, mocked, and ridiculed (15:15), He was led out to be crucified. The soldiers ordered a man named Simon to carry the cross. (15:21) They made a sign with the charge against Jesus and probably tied it around His neck. Later they would nail the sign to the cross. (15:26) The charge written on Jesus' sign read, "THE KING OF THE JEWS" (15:26) because the Jewish leaders had told Pilate that Jesus was a rebel who claimed to be a king.

After the soldiers brought Jesus to the execution site called Golgotha, they offered Him wine with a drug to help ease the pain that was to come. However, when Jesus realized it contained myrrh, He refused to drink it (15:23) because He wanted to stay alert. (Matt. 27:34) They stripped off His clothes and divided them into four parts. (15:24) The fifth piece was a "tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from the top." (John 19:23) Since the soldiers didn't want to tear it, they gambled to see who would get it. (John 19:24)

The soldiers placed Jesus' outstretched hands on the horizontal piece and nailed them in place. The execution team then used a rope to raise the horizontal piece in place and fasten

it to the vertical piece which was already in the ground. Mark noted (15:25) that the time was 9:00 AM. Two others, men who were actually guilty of crimes, were also crucified with Jesus with His cross positioned in the middle. (15:27) Mark pointed out (15:28) that this scene fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 53:12.

The site of execution was outside the city walls but near enough that many would pass by. As they looked up at Jesus, they mocked Him by recalling His claim that He could “demolish the sanctuary and build it in three days.” (15:29) They were referring to Jesus’ response to the Jewish leaders when they had asked Him where He got the authority to throw out the money changers and merchants from the Temple. (John 2:13-18) Jesus had told them that they could see His authority by destroying “this sanctuary” and then He would “raise it up in three days.” (John 2:19) The Jewish leaders thought He meant the Temple complex which had taken “46 years to build.” (John 2:20) Of course, Jesus was referring to the temple of His physical body; He was foretelling His death and resurrection. The Jewish leaders—“the chief priests with the scribes”—also mocked Him by challenging Him to “save Himself.” (15:31) They had heard of His miracles of healing (Mark 5:24-34) and feeding the multitudes. (Mark 6:30-44) They claimed that if He performed this additional miracle, then they would believe.

About noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way until 3:00. At that time “Jesus cried out with a loud voice” words in Aramaic, the common language of Palestinian Jews. His words were from Psalm 22:1 which Mark translated into Greek for his readers. Why did Jesus shout these words? One possibility is that for the first time in His earthly life He experienced the brokenness that comes from sin, an awareness Jesus had never before felt since He was sinless. (Heb. 4:15) Jesus’ death for us fulfilled Isaiah’s prophecy (Isaiah 53:4-6) and became the heart of the gospel message. (1 Cor. 15:3)

Apparently, some misunderstood Jesus’ words for “My God” as a call to the prophet Elijah. Due to the physical torture before and during His time on the cross, Jesus would have had trouble speaking due to being dehydrated. Someone put some sour wine on a sponge and raised it to His lips. Instead, of drinking Jesus made one final cry (15:37)—“It is finished”—and died. (John 19:30) At that moment the inner curtain in the Temple “was split in two from top to bottom” (15:38) to show that the way to God was open to all who put their faith in His Son Jesus. (John 3:16) After witnessing Jesus’ response to His beatings and crucifixion, even a Roman centurion acknowledged that “This man really was God’s Son!” (15:39) Mark also noted that several women who had traveled with Jesus to Jerusalem were nearby.

JESUS' BURIAL AND RESURRECTION (MARK 15:42-16:7)

After Jesus died, a man named Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate. Mark described Joseph as "a prominent member of the Sanhedrin" and as one who, like Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:25-40), was eagerly looking for God's Messiah to bring God's Kingdom to Israel. (15:42-43) Mark noted Joseph's boldness as he asked Pilate for permission to take Jesus' body from the cross so he could provide a proper Jewish burial. (15:43-44) After getting Pilate's approval, Joseph quickly took Jesus' body and performed the usual Jewish burial rites. With the help of Nicodemus, Joseph then wrapped Jesus' body with linen and the spices, and placed the body in "a tomb cut out of the rock." (15:46) Joseph placed a stone over the entrance of the tomb. Mark noted that the women who had been near the cross were watching as Joseph placed Jesus' body in the tomb. (15:47)

Jesus died and was buried on Friday. On Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, no one did any work and all shops were closed. As the sun began to appear on Sunday morning, three of the women who had watched the crucifixion and burial brought spices to add to the ones already used by Joseph. (16:1-2) On their way to the tomb they were wondering who would be able to roll back the stone, "which was very large." (16:4) As they approached the tomb, they were amazed to see that the stone was already rolled back. Grateful that the stone was gone, they went inside to complete their task, expecting to find Jesus' body lying on a shelf cut into the rock. But instead of finding Jesus' body, they found "a young man dressed in a long white robe" (16:5)—clearly an angel. (Matt. 28:2-3)

Naturally, the women who had been expecting to find a dead body were confused and afraid. The angel quickly told them, "Don't be alarmed" (16:6), and that he knew they were looking for Jesus the Nazarene. Then he shared the best news ever, "He has been resurrected!" (16:6) He invited them to see the empty shelf for themselves and instructed them to go tell the good news to Jesus' disciples, especially to Peter (the one who had three times denied that he even knew Jesus; Mark 14:66-72), and to let them know they would all see Him in Galilee just as He had foretold. (Mark 14:28) God sent Jesus to die in order to free us from the guilt and slavery of our sin. (Rom. 8:1-4) God raised Jesus from the tomb to confirm His message and to enable us to experience eternal life. (1 Cor. 15:20-22)

NOTES

APPLICATION

God created us for a loving, eternal relationship with Him, but we have all broken that relationship by sinning against Him. Because God loves us, He sent His Son to make a way to restore our relationship. Through His sacrifice Jesus paid our sin debt. Through His resurrection He overcame not only His death but ours as well. As He told Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live." (John 11:25)

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- What does it mean to you that Jesus is the resurrection and the life?
- How did Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection provide the way for our broken relationship with God to be restored?