

FURTHER STUDY:

A. Scriptures (parallel Gospel accounts):

Matthew 27:32-66

Luke 23:26-56

John 19:16-42

B. Suggested Reference Materials:

"The Last Week" Borg & Crossan

"Beautiful Outlaw" by John Eldredge

"The Jesus I Never Knew" by Phillip Yancey

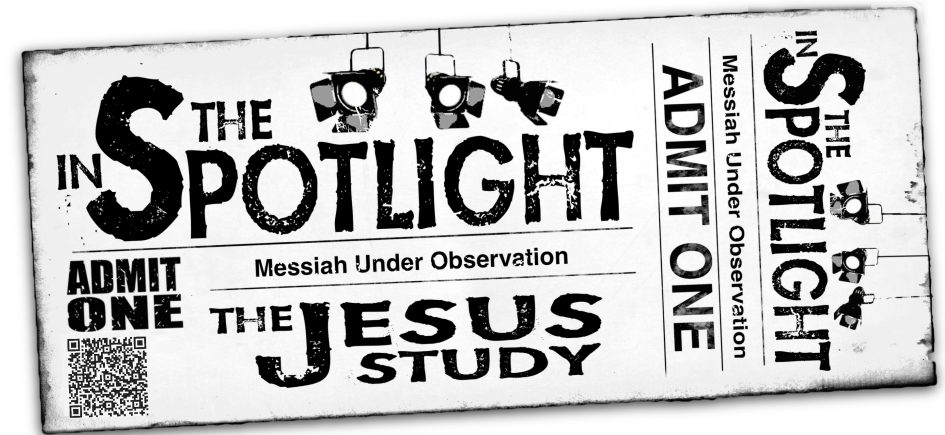
"Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus" by Lois Tverberg

Next Week: Mark 16

"The Empty Tomb"

and/or *"Addendum"*

You won't want to miss it!



LESSON #22

"The Crucifixion"

Mark 15:21-47

Psalm 22

Focus Scripture:

Mark 15:37-38

"Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the temple curtain was torn in half, from top to bottom."

Food for Thought:

At what time in your life did you have a realization that what Jesus did on the cross might also have something to do with you?

Vocabulary Definitions:

Has done it (ἔψαχ, asah): Accomplish, do, make - Psalm 22:31

Finished (τετέλεω, teleó): Accomplish, complete- John 19:30

Ransom (λύτρον, lutron): Literally, the ransom-money (price) to free a slave.

Brief Historical and/or Cultural Context:

Roman crucifixion was an horrific, torturous method of killing. It was meant to be a deterrent against insurrection. Common criminals were not crucified, only those who were terrorists, or freedom fighters (depending on your point of view).

Crucifixions weren't carried out "on a hill far away," but on the main thoroughfare leading into town. Posts were erected and remained in the ground, where the condemned, carrying the cross bar, were hoisted atop the post. On any given day, there may be some poor soul dying upon a post.

It was not the intention for Roman officials to remove the bodies once dead, but allowed the carrion to be eaten by dogs and birds. It was unheard of for one crucified to be given a burial. It was also normal for a crucifixion to take longer than 24 hours for dehydration and asphyxiation to occur.

That having been said, why is Mark silent about the greater reason for Jesus' crucifixion? Only one verse, Mark 10:45 expresses "...to give his life as a ransom (see vocabulary) for many..." and his prayer in Gethsemane allude to his death having more significance than the crucifixion of a rebel.

Secondly, I have yet to find anything about suffering and torture in the Hebrew's Day of Atonement as substitution for sin. Atonement was made once each year in Autumn by the High Priest entering the Holy of Holies, (behind the temple curtain that was torn from top to bottom on Good Friday), sacrificing a bull and a goat, and symbolically transferring the sins of the entire nation onto the head of another goat, which was then set out into the wilderness. Jesus, in the Spring during Passover fulfilled the Passover rituals, but the Passover rituals and Passover Lamb was a picture of rescue from the Angel of Death and from bondage, not an atonement for sin.

The fact(s) remain. Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection was a means of freedom from bondage for those who follow him. His death was far more than a Roman crucifixion, and we won't know the depth of his suffering and gift of life until we are united with him in glory.

Scene 1

THE STAGE: Read Mark 15:21-47

1. Who are all the people listed here in Mark's telling?
2. Picture Simon, of Cyrene, "coming into Jerusalem from the country." No other details than that, and what then can we surmise of the mention of Alexander and Rufus?
3. Who are absent?

THE SCRIPT:

1. In what way was Jesus being taunted, and by whom?
2. The other Gospels add more detail. What can you recall of the other things spoken by Jesus from the cross? Matthew 27:32-56; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:16-30

Scene 2

THE SCRIPT: Read Psalm 22

1. What passages are linked to what Jesus is experiencing on the cross?
2. Which portions may Jesus have been reciting for his own comfort while dying? Compare Jesus' first recitation (Mark 15:34) and his final word (John 19:30)?
3. Compare Jesus' first words and final words (Mark 15:34; John 19:30) with Psalm 22's first and final verses.

Scene 3

THE SCRIPT: Read Isaiah 53

1. What passages are linked to what Jesus is experiencing on the cross?
2. If this is a Messianic passage, what stands out to you concerning details of Jesus' death?

THE REVIEWS:

1. What are your thoughts concerning Jesus as the Passover Lamb (John 1:29)?