

POWER HOUR

3/29/2026

Lesson Text:
Mark 15:16-39

Background Scripture:
Psalms 22:1-24, Isaiah 53:4-12

Devotional Reading:
Leviticus 16:1-34, Hebrews 9:1-14 &
10:19-25

“JESUS BEARS GOD’S WRATH”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: 37 Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed His last. 38 And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

Mark 15:37-38 NLT

Time: between A.D. 26 and 30

Place: Jerusalem

Mark 15:16-39 NLT

16 The soldiers took Jesus into the courtyard of the governor’s headquarters (called the Praetorium) and called out the entire regiment. **17** They dressed him in a purple robe, and they wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head. **18** Then they saluted him and taunted, “Hail! King of the Jews!” **19** And they struck him on the head with a reed stick, spit on him, and dropped to their knees in mock worship. **20** When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified. **21** A passerby named Simon, who was from Cyrene, was coming in from the countryside just then, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus’ cross. (Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus.) **22** And they brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha (which means “Place of the Skull”). **23** They offered him wine drugged with myrrh, but he refused it. **24** Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross. They divided his clothes and threw dice to decide who would get each piece. **25** It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. **26** A sign announced the charge against him. It read, “The King of the Jews.” **27** Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. **29** The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. “Ha! Look at you now!” they

yelled at him. "You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. **30** Well then, save yourself and come down from the cross!" **31** The leading priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus. "He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself! **32** Let this Messiah, this King of Israel, come down from the cross so we can see it and believe him!" Even the men who were crucified with Jesus ridiculed him. **33** At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. **34** Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" **35** Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. **36** One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. "Wait!" he said. "Let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down!" **37** Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. **38** And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. **39** When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, "This man truly was the Son of God!"

INTRODUCTION

The life of Jesus must have seemed disappointing to those around Him. Large crowds followed Him. The people were ready to crown Him King. They believed that He would free them from Rome and usher in a golden era for Israel!

Contrary to their hopes, He was captured in Gethsemane and mocked by Roman soldiers. Instead of escaping, He was crucified, confirmed dead, and buried. But Jesus was defeating a far greater enemy than the Rome. Jesus died to satisfy the wrath of God and defeat sin and death

- 1. The mocking of Jesus (Mark 15:16-20).** The Roman soldiers treated Jesus like a common criminal, mocking and beating Him. They mocked His status as King, pretending to pay homage to Him. How tragically ironic! They did not know they were mocking the King of the entire world.
- 2. The crucifixion of Jesus (Mark 15:21-32).** After the soldiers had finished their horrific sport, they led Him outside the city and crucified Him. Just as the

priests carried the bodies of the animal sacrifices made in the temple out of the city, Jesus was crucified outside of the city (Hebrews 13:11-12). The situation seemed hopeless. The religious leaders and the crowd mocked Jesus, calling for Him to save Himself. They failed to recognize the irony that if Jesus had chosen to save Himself, every one would be lost. In staying on the cross, Jesus was victorious as the true King (Isaiah 53:7-12).

3. The death of Jesus (Mark 15:33-39). Although Jesus' crucifixion was excruciating, the focus in Mark is not on the physical pain but on the agony of separation from God. Jesus called out, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (vs. 34). Some misinterpreted Jesus as calling for Elijah, who was supposed to come prior to the Messiah. Figuratively speaking, Elijah had already come through John the Baptist (Matthew 17:12-13). When Jesus breathed His last breath, the curtain in the temple tore in two. Before Jesus' death, only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place once a year on the Day of Atonement. The tearing of the curtain signified a new era. By His blood, Jesus made a way for us to be with God (Hebrews 10:19-20). Standing nearby, a Roman centurion—an enemy of the Jews—witnessed the darkness and the earthquake and recognized that Jesus is the Son of God (Matthew 27:45-54). It is possible the centurion thought Jesus was merely a son of one of many gods, but it is also possible that He recognized Jesus' identity as something greater. The irony is that a Roman saw who Jesus is more clearly than the Jewish leaders. That detail highlights the fact that Jesus came to save not only the Jews but also Gentiles.

PRACTICAL POINTS

Many people will mock Jesus' kingship (Mark 15:16-18).

Jesus perfectly models how to suffer patiently (vss. 19-20).

Jesus' death was a real event in history, not a moral tale (vss. 21-22).

Jesus' death fulfilled prophecy. Even when everything seems to be going wrong, we can trust that God has a plan (vss. 23-31).

Because of what Jesus accomplished, we will never be forsaken by God (vss. 32-34).

Jesus' sacrificial death reveals His identity. We should proclaim His death to skeptics (vss. 35-39).

CONCLUSION

Christ is the victorious King who conquered sin and death. Although Jesus' death seemed like the destruction of all His disciples' hopes regarding the Messiah, Mark makes clear that this was why Jesus came. Instead of defeating an earthly enemy (like the Romans), He defeated ultimate enemies for Jews and Gentiles alike.

QUESTION(S)

1. Why did the Roman soldiers put Jesus in a purple robe and give Him a crown of thorns?
2. How do we know Jesus' death at the hands of the Romans was not an accident?
3. Why did Isaiah 53 say the Suffering Servant would suffer?
4. How did the location of Golgotha fulfill Old Testament prophecy?
5. Why was it important that Jesus suffered between two criminals?
6. What was ironic about the Jewish leaders' taunt of Jesus?
7. What did Jesus accomplish on the cross?
8. What was the meaning of the darkness over the land?
9. What was the significance of the curtain being torn in two?
10. How is the centurion's declaration significant?

Next week, we are looking at how Jesus conquered death and rose from the grave. **“Jesus Overcomes the Grave (Easter)” Mark 16:1-8**

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