



Leader

3/24 - Mark 15:16-39 (Simon of Cyrene)

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new?! How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement from us?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[Dialogue]

2. Let's read our primary text. What is the picture painted for us here? What does Mark tell us Jesus is seeing and experiencing?

The Sanhedrin had just gathered and issued a judgement towards Jesus and directed him to be delivered to Pilate. At his headquarters, Pilate comes out to speak to Jesus in his courtyard. [Since it was Passover, Pilate would have respected the Jewish people by coming out into the courtyard to speak to them (it was ceremonially unclean to enter the dwelling place of a Gentile, an open-air space was permissible - See John 18:28)]. Jesus was looking at a whole battalion (about 600 men at full strength). He was given purple to wear, an additional mocking mechanism, since he claimed to be the king of the Jews (among Hebrews, purple was the color of the revealed God, YHWH).

3. Why was crucifixion the chosen method of punishment for grievous offenses (high treason)?

It was the final public deterrent to warn people not to rebel against Rome.

4. Why was Jesus taken outside of the city walls?

Death outside of the city walls were in accordance to both Jewish and Roman custom. Death, burials, and "unclean" actions were to be made outside of the walls of the city. The author of Hebrews speaks to this:

The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come (Hebrews 13:11–13)

5. How are we to "go to him outside the city gate" as the writer of Hebrew states?

We are to live with the mindset of a heavenly citizenship, willing to leave behind worldly pleasures and willing to suffer as Jesus did, as we look forward to our heavenly dwelling, in the presence of God.

6. What level of humility/restraint does it take to be mocked of something that you are fully capable of doing? Have you ever experienced a situation similar to this?

[Note: Jesus did not exercise his deity, but showed restraint to honor the will of the Father.]

7. What is the significance of the veil in the temple being torn in two?

The veil was barrier in the temple that guarded the entrance to the dwelling place of God; it separated the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. When the veil was torn, it signified that Jesus had made access to God available by his perfect sacrifice on the cross, thus rendering temple sacrifices obsolete. Because of the sacrifice of Jesus, we now and draw near to the throne of grace with confidence.

8. There is quite a lot here, what other observations do you have regarding this text?

[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives, putting to death sinful desires.

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- gotquestions.org ("significance of colors", "outside the camp")