

SERMON: The Death of Jesus
SERIES: The Gospel of Mark
SPEAKER: Pastor Mark

March 25, 2018

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE:

Mark 15:33-47.

³³ And when the sixth hour[a] had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵ And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." ³⁶ And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹ When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴² And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. ⁴⁵ And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. ⁴⁶ And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. What happened at Jesus' death?
- II. What did Jesus' death accomplish?
- III. What does Jesus' death mean for us?

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. During the crucifixion, supernatural darkness covered the land. This darkness points to both our sin and the judgment of sin. Sin is darkness and sin deserves darkness. Can you think of other examples in scripture where darkness occurred because of sin or in judgment of sin? What does the darkness at Christ's death tell us about our own sin?
2. The torn veil demonstrates the end of the Temple worship system. Read Hebrews 9-10 together as a group and think through these big questions: a) How is the New Covenant better than the Old? [9:1-22] b) What are the spiritual benefits/results of the New Covenant? [9:23-10:18] c) What should be our response to the New Covenant? [10:19-25]
3. The two-fold meaning of the gospel is that a) we are more sinful in ourselves than we ever dared believe, and b) we are more loved and accepted than we ever dared hope. How does the Roman Centurion demonstrate these two truths? Which of these two truths do you struggle with believing the most? How would your life be different if you believed it more fully? Think about how it would impact your view of God? Self? Others? Suffering?