

## Lesson 22- Mark 14:66- 15:41

Our last lesson began with the Last Supper. Jesus revealed that this meal, with bread and wine, was a sign of the **New Covenant**. Jesus prophesied that one of the Twelve would betray Him and that even his faithful followers would “scatter.” He again declared that **he would be raised**. Jesus also told Peter that even he would deny knowing Jesus **three times**. After drinking wine and eating this last meal, Jesus took Peter, James and John with Him as He prayed in Gethsemane. The three Apostles could not stay awake. Judas arrived on the scene with a crowd of armed men. Judas betrayed Jesus with an unholy kiss. Jesus was arrested and taken to the high priest. Many false accusations were made against Jesus, but he did not respond to any of the false testimony. But, when high priest asked Him directly if he were “**the Christ, the Son of the Blessed,**” Jesus responded “**I AM.**” He then used the words from Daniel 7 that describe the Son of Man: “**You will see the Son of Man, sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.**” And so, the Passion begins with the charge of blasphemy, beating, taunting and spitting on the LORD. The punishment for blasphemy was death.

1. **Read Mark 14:66-72 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes with your group.**
  - a. **The prophecies of Jesus begin to come to light. Which of Jesus’ prophecies comes true in these verses?**
  - b. **Reflection: How would the people of Jerusalem know that Peter was a Galilean?**
2. **Read Mark 15:1-5 and footnotes. Share your footnotes.**
  - a. **Compare your translations of Mark 15:5.**
  - b. **Reflection: Would *blasphemy* be a capital crime under Roman law?**
  - c. **Which of the accusations made against Jesus by the Temple officials could be understood as treason by the Romans?**
3. **Read Mark 15:6-15 and footnotes.**
  - a. **Why was Pontius Pilate willing to release a prisoner?**
  - b. **What title does Pilate use for Jesus when suggesting His possible release to the crowd?**
  - c. **Of what crimes was Barabas guilty?**
4. **Read Mark 15:16-20 and footnotes.**
  - a. **How did the soldiers mock Jesus?**
  - b. **What is the irony about how they dressed Him?**
  - c. **Reflection: What does the mockery of Jesus by the soldiers say about human cruelty and prejudice?**

**5. Read Mark 15:21-32 and footnotes. Read also Luke 23:33-34 and Luke 23:39-43 here:**

**Luke 23:33-34** <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

**Luke 23:39-43** One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done

nothing wrong.”<sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

**5a. What does the Gospel of Luke add to our understanding of Jesus in the above verses that was not stressed in Mark 15?**

**5b. What might the purpose be for offering wine, drugged with myrrh, to Jesus in Mk 15:23?**

**5c. Reflection. Read Mark 15:24 again. What is the main concern of the soldiers here?**

**5d. What does the *casting of lots* (much like throwing dice) for Jesus’ garments say about the hearts of those same soldiers who had just crucified Jesus in 15:24?**

**6. Read Mark 15:33-41 and footnotes. Read also Psalm 22:2-3, 28-32 below.**

**Jesus’ words in 15:34 come from Psalm 22. (To truly understand His words read the entire Psalm.) *Here is how the Psalm 22 begins and how it ends.***

**Psalm 22:2-3.... My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why so far from my call for help, from my cries of anguish?**<sup>3</sup> My God, I call by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I have no relief. All who see me mock me; they curl their lips and jeer; they shake their heads at me:

**22:28-32....All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD; All the families of nations will bow low before him.**<sup>29</sup> For kingship belongs to the LORD, the ruler over the nations.<sup>30</sup> All who sleep in the earth will bow low before God; All who have gone down into the dust will kneel in homage.<sup>31</sup> And I will live for the LORD; my descendants will serve you.<sup>32</sup> **The generation to come will be told of the Lord, that they may proclaim to a people yet unborn the deliverance you have brought.**

**6a. Reflection. After reading Psalm 22, a Psalm of David, what message is Jesus really giving his followers?**

**6b. Compare translations for Mk 15:36 within your groups. NABRE and St. Ignatius differ.**

**6c. Read Matthew 27:51-53 below: What details does Matthew include here that are not mentioned in Mark 15:33-41?**

**Matt 27:51-53** And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split,<sup>52</sup> tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised.<sup>53</sup> And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many.

**6d. In Mark 15:39, What is the significance that this proclamation came from a *Centurion*?**

**7. Reflect for a moment on the courage it would take to follow Jesus and remain with Him until his death. What does this say about the women mentioned in 15:40-41?**