



## **Crucified, Dead, and Buried**

### **Key idea:**

Jesus was crucified, dead, and buried - but His cross has opened the way for people of all nations to become part of God's people and come into the very Presence of God.

### **Key text:**

Mark 15:20-47

20 And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. 21 A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. 22 They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). 23 Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. 24 And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. 25 It was the third hour when they crucified him. 26 The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.

27 They crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left. 29 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30 come down from the cross and save yourself!" 31 In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! 32 Let this Christ, this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

33 At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. 34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" — which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" 35 When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah." 36 One man ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

37 With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. 38 The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. 39 And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" 40 Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the

mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. 41 In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

42 It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, 43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. 44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. 45 When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. 46 So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

### **Key points:**

1. The Gospels and other New Testament writings are clear - Jesus was truly crucified, He died, and He was buried in a tomb.
2. The crucifixion of Jesus was not just physical suffering, but spiritual anguish as He bore God's wrath for our sins.
3. Jesus' death on the cross tore the temple curtain, granting us direct access to God's presence.
4. The cross is God's instrument to draw people from every nation to Himself, as seen in the Roman centurion's confession.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How does understanding the brutality of crucifixion impact your view of what Jesus endured for us?
2. John Calvin wrote "If Christ had died only a bodily death, it would have been ineffectual... Unless His soul shared in the punishment, He would have been the Redeemer of bodies alone. [In consequence] he paid a greater and more excellent price in suffering in his soul the terrible torments of a condemned and forsaken man." How does this deepen your understanding of the cross?
3. The teaching mentioned that Jesus' cry "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" was not rhetorical. What does this tell us about the depth of Jesus' sacrifice?
4. The teaching emphasized the importance of the temple curtain being torn. How does this change our relationship with God compared to Old Testament times?

5. Why do you think it's significant that a Roman centurion was the first human in Mark's gospel to confess Jesus as the Son of God?
6. The teaching stated, "Far from being the moment of Jesus' greatest weakness, it's the moment of his power." How does this challenge our usual perceptions of power and weakness?
7. How does the cross demonstrate both God's justice and His love? Why are both important?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. Spend time this week meditating on Hebrews 10:19-22. How can you practically "draw near to God with a sincere heart" because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross?
2. The teaching mentioned how Christians proudly proclaim the cross rather than hiding it. How can you more boldly share the message of the cross in your daily life?
3. Reflect on areas in your life where you might feel "far from God." How does the story of the centurion encourage you?
4. Consider writing a prayer or journaling about what the cross means to you personally, focusing on gratitude for Christ's sacrifice.
5. Spend time in worship, using great hymns and modern songs that focus on the cross of Christ.
6. **Come to the Good Friday service on Friday. It will be from 7-8:30 at CrossPointe Church, 365 Jones Station Road, Arnold, MD 21012.**