

Theme: 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.

## I. Tom Holland 'Dominion'

- A. How the Christian Revolution Remade the World
- B. The cover is the crucifixion! How could this be?
- C. Most would hide this; Christians put it in our Creeds!
- D. What happened at the Cross? How does it change everything?

## II. Crucified, Dead, and Buried

### A. Jesus was crucified

Then they led him out to crucify him... <sup>25</sup> It was the third hour when they crucified him. Mark 15:20, 25

- 1. As I noted last week, Roman crucifixion was brutal.
  - a. The scourging sometimes killed the person
  - b. The condemned had to carry their own cross-beam
  - c. Simon had to do this for Jesus because of this horrific scourging Jesus had endured.
  - d. They were crucified naked (or just a loin cloth possibly for Jews) in a public place to add to the shame.
  - e. The person could hang for days, slowly dying from blood loss and asphyxiation
  - f. Josephus - "the most wretched of all ways of dying"
  - g. This was a method of death reserved for those who were not Roman citizens, especially slaves. It was only for those outcasts of society.
  - h. This is why it is shocking that Christians openly acknowledge Jesus was crucified!

- 2. Mark's focus is mainly on the spiritual side of this event rather than the physical
  - a. He does not mention the stripping, the nails, etc.
  - b. As we saw last week Mark does convey a lot about the scorn and the fulfillment of the Scriptures
  - c. His readers knew the 'how' - Mark wants to convey the 'why'
  - d. He simply notes that Jesus was crucified at noon
  - e. Our focus will also be on the 'why' of the cross.

### B. Jesus died

At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. <sup>34</sup> 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?" Mark 15:33-34

- 1. Three hours into the crucifixion a miraculous darkness descends (v33)
  - a. It is noon - the middle of the day
  - b. It is Passover - eclipses are impossible
  - c. It is the wet season - no dust storm could arise
  - d. This is a supernatural darkness coming over the land as a message from God.
  - e. It is like the supernatural darkness from the first Passover - a sign of God's curse coming (Exodus 10:21)
- 2. Jesus' cry of abandonment (v34)
  - a. Three hours later - at the Jewish hour of prayer - Jesus cries out Psalm 22:1
  - b. His words are Aramaic - which is why Mark translates them for his readers

- c. Jesus is experiencing the darkness of bearing the curse for sin and the separation that sin brings from the presence of God's love and blessing.
- d. This was the Cup Jesus had prayed about in the Garden, and which He had willingly chosen to drink.  
How great the pain of searing loss!  
The Father turns His face away;  
(How Deep the Father's Love for Us)
- e. This is the why of the Cross - not just physical pain and death, but spiritual anguish of experiencing the righteous wrath of God against sin  
"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." (John Calvin)
- f. How great is the love of Jesus Christ in bearing the abandonment, the anguish, the penalty that was due for my sin!

### 3. Our attempt to avoid the 'why' of the cross

When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah." <sup>36</sup> 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. Mark 15:35-36

- a. They misunderstand Jesus' words ('My God' and 'Elijah' are close in Aramaic and Hebrew)
- b. Many Jews thought that Elijah would come to help the righteous in their suffering - like a patron saint in Roman Catholic popular thought.
- c. This is a deep misunderstanding of what is happening - Elijah could not deliver from this!
- d. Gnostics refused to believe Jesus was crucified

- e. Many today want to remove the Cup of God's wrath and the abandonment Jesus experienced
- f. To do this is to empty the Cross of its true meaning!

### 4. Jesus dies with a loud cry

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. Mark 15:37

- a. It is VERY unusual for a crucified person to be able to shout at their time of death - most are unconscious as they die.
- b. When we piece the Gospels together the final cry of Jesus is "IT IS FINISHED! FATHER INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT!" (John 19:30/Luke 23:46)
- c. This is the moment when the bearing of our sin is finished and complete - Jesus has drunk the Cup to its dregs. The Father's will is done.

### C. Jesus was buried

It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, <sup>43</sup> 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. <sup>44</sup> Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. <sup>45</sup> When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. <sup>46</sup> 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. <sup>47</sup> Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid. Mark 15:42-47

- 1. It is unusual but the burial is part of our confession!
- 2. It is in all the Gospels, Paul's summary of the Gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:3-5, the Creeds!

3. One reason for this is it shows Jesus really died
  - a. Mark notes that Pilate was surprised and verified that Jesus was dead.
  - b. v45 - he gave the CORPSE to Joseph
  - c. The corpse was prepared for burial and put in the tomb
  - d. The women see the crucifixion, the body given to Joseph, the body prepared and placed in the tomb.
  - e. There is no way to mistake this - Jesus was dead when He was placed into the tomb.

D. Mark is clear - Jesus was crucified, dead, and buried.

### III. Applying the Word: The Triumph of the Cross

- A. The Temple curtain is torn from top to bottom  
 With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. <sup>38</sup> The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. Mark 15:37-38
  1. At the death of Jesus, the temple curtain is torn
  2. There were two curtains in the Temple - one between the forecourt and the Holy Place, and one that separated the Holy Place & the Holy of Holies
  3. Some think this is the curtain by the forecourt
    - a. This would be a public sign that many could see
    - b. This would be similar to the public crucifixion, the darkness that all saw, and the earthquake that all felt (Matthews gospel records this).
    - c. This would also refer to the breaking of the separation between Jew and Gentile.
  4. I agree with others that it refers to the curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies

- a. There are two words for “curtain” and they can be used for both, but the word here (καταπέτασμα) is mainly used for the curtain shielding the Holy of Holies.
- b. This is how it is mainly used in the LXX, and how it is used every time in the NT outside of the Gospels recording this incident.

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup> where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek. Heb. 6:19-20

1. Same word - and this is clearly the Holy of Holies
2. That curtain is torn and Jesus our High Priest entered on our behalf.

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body... Hebrews 10:19-21

3. Same word, again into the Most Holy Place - by the body of Jesus!
4. This means we can now enter the Holy of Holies - not just the High Priest once a year: we have free access every moment into the Holy of Holies!
5. This is the power and the triumph of the cross - we have been given free access into God's Presence through the atoning death of Jesus!
6. They destroyed His Body - and it was the end of the Temple and the beginning of the new Temple!

#### B. The centurion's profession of faith

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. <sup>38</sup> The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> 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!” Mark 15:37-39

1. The death of Jesus opens the eyes of this centurion who has probably seen many, many crucifixions.
2. The centurion proclaims Jesus is the Son of God
3. The Gospel began by telling us that Jesus is the Son of God, the Father proclaimed this at Jesus' baptism, and the demons had stated this fact - but this is the first human to proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God.
4. All the miracles and displays of power did not bring about this confession - it was Jesus' death on the cross that opened the eyes of this centurion!
5. This is not a disciple, or a Jewish religious leader but a Gentile soldier - the cross is drawing people from all nations to the people of God!
6. If you think you are too far away, remember the centurion and take heart - there is room for you at the foot of the Cross!
7. If you think you are far away - look to the Cross and cry out 'Truly Jesus is the Son of God!'
8. Behold the power and the triumph of the cross - through it, God is drawing people from every nation, language, class, and background to be part of His people!
9. O the wonderful Cross, through which I have been saved, blessed, and secured for eternal joy!

#### C. The Lord's Table

1. Through the Cross, Jesus has opened a place for us to sit at God's own Table to feast with Him
2. Come, eat, drink, and receive from God through all that Jesus has done!

## Crucified, Dead, and Buried

Mark 15:21-47

April 13, 2025

Communion

Colossians 2:13-15

Teaching keywords: Christology; cross; faith; evangelism and missions

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. That victory won at the cross is yours - you are blessed! So go forth and be a blessing! Colossians 2:13-15

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. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). <sup>23</sup> Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup> And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. <sup>25</sup> It was the third hour when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup> The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.

<sup>27</sup> They crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>29</sup> 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, <sup>30</sup> come down from the cross and save yourself!" <sup>31</sup> 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! <sup>32</sup> 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.

<sup>33</sup> At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. <sup>34</sup> 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?" <sup>35</sup> When some of those

standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah." <sup>36</sup> 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.

<sup>37</sup> With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. <sup>38</sup> The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> 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!" <sup>40</sup> Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. <sup>41</sup> 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.

<sup>42</sup> It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, <sup>43</sup> 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. <sup>44</sup> Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. <sup>45</sup> When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. <sup>46</sup> 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. <sup>47</sup> Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid. Mark 15:20-47