

LESSON 13

UP FROM THE GRAVE HE AROSE

MARK 15:1—16:20



1 The disciples hid, but the women watched from a distance as Joseph and Nicodemus took Jesus' body down from the cross. As you think about the crucifixion scene, how close would you have dared to come?



Read Mark 15:1—16:20 and the following notes:

- ☐ 15:1 ☐ 15:13 ☐ 15:15 ☐ 15:26 ☐ 15:31 ☐ 15:42ff ☐ 15:44 ☐ 16:4
☐ 16:6

2 Why was Jesus tried first by the Jews and then by the Romans?

3 What could have motivated the soldiers to treat Jesus so maliciously (15:16–20)?

4 What could have motivated the spectators to ridicule Jesus so relentlessly (15:29–32)?

5 After hearing all of Jesus’ predictions, why did the disciples stubbornly refuse to believe the eyewitnesses who saw Jesus alive after he rose from the dead (16:13, 14)?

Jesus was not simply a talented teacher who ran into some bad luck, or someone with good ideas who got caught in the middle. Jesus was the sinless Son of God who was fulfilling his mission of paying for our sins. Couldn’t this terrible experience have been avoided? Couldn’t God have simply forgiven humanity? That might have been possible if we had merely hurt God’s feelings or violated his personal rights. But we broke his laws, and a penalty had to be paid. If a mass murderer said, “I’m sorry, and I won’t do it anymore,” we might be able to forgive him, but a legal price would still have to be paid. Jesus paid the price for our sins through his death, and his resurrection shows us clearly that he successfully accomplished what he came to do. Now forgiveness for our sins is possible.



6 How would Christianity be different if Jesus had remained dead?

7 Why is it easy to forget that all of our sins are forgiven?



8 How does the Resurrection build your confidence or courage?

9 It's easy to forget that all our sins were nailed to the cross with Christ, even the future ones. God's forgiveness of our sins through Christ is complete. How does this affect the way you live?

10 What can you do to show your gratitude for God's wonderful plan and Christ's profound act of sacrificial love?



MORE
for studying
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- A** Why did Jesus say so little to Pilate (Mark 15:2–5)?
- B** In what way does Barabbas symbolize us today (Mark 15:7–15)?

C Why was Jesus sentenced to die on the cross (Mark 15:6–15)? How do we know that Jesus truly died and did not just lose consciousness (Mark 15:37–39, 44, 45)? Why did Jesus die (1 Corinthians 15:3)?

D How did the following people at the cross respond to Jesus (Mark 15:25–41): Simon? The two thieves? The soldiers? Onlookers? Roman officers? Women? With which response do you most identify? Why?

E Why would the women make the trip to the tomb without knowing how they were going to get in (16:2, 3)?

F What evidence do we have that Jesus really rose from the dead (16:4–8)? (Also see 15:42–47.)

G Compare the character of the disciples before and after the Resurrection. In what ways did they change? In what ways have you changed because of following Christ?