

Mark 15:16-39

Discussion Questions

Opener: How would you explain the death of Jesus to an unbelieving friend?

Read Mark 15:33-39

1. The darkness (v. 33) points to God's wrath and judgment (cf Joel 2:1-2). Why do you think the idea that God is angry with sin is so unpopular today?
2. "If God is loving, surely he must to be angry with the way we treat one another." Do you agree? Why?
3. Jesus' cry (v. 34) suggests God's wrath is directed toward Him rather than the people crucifying Him. Jesus was sinless, so why is God punishing him? (cf. Mark 10:45, 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. What does the tearing of the temple curtain (v. 38) show us about what Jesus' death accomplished?
 - a. Why do we tend to take our access to God for granted?
 - b. How does this passage help motivate us to appreciate it more fully?
5. Why is the Roman centurion's declaration in verse 39 surprising?
 - a. What does it show us about the power of the cross? (cf. Colossians 1:21-22; Ephesians 2:13)
 - b. How does this give us hope as we pray for our friends and neighbors to come to know Jesus?

Read Mark 15:6-39

6. List out the various different responses we see to Jesus and his crucifixion.
7. How do we encounter similar responses to today?

Prayer Ideas:

- Pray for friends, neighbors, family members or work colleagues who don't yet understand the cross and what it means for them.
 - Give thanks that God has put them in your life.
 - Pray that God will help you demonstrate Christ's love to them in word and deed.
 - Ask God to open their eyes, just as he did with the centurion (v.39).