

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 Mar..... 1 Peter 1:1-12..... Our Inheritance
- 2) 09 Mar..... 1 Peter 1:13-25..... Our Mandate
- 3) 16 Mar..... 1 Peter 2:1-10..... Our Identify
- 4) 23 Mar..... 1 Peter 2:11-25..... Our Witness
- 5) 30 Mar..... 1 Peter 3:1-12..... Our Relationships
- 6) 06 Apr..... 1 Peter 3:13-22..... Our Defense
- 7) 13 Apr..... 1 Peter 4:1-11..... Our Faith
- 8) 20 Apr..... **Mark 15-16..... EASTER – Our Savior**
- 9) 27 Apr..... 1 Peter 4:12-19..... Our Savior
- 10) 04 May..... 1 Peter 5:1-14..... Be Prepared
- 11) 11 May..... 2 Peter 1:1-21..... Be Equipped
- 12) 18 May..... 2 Peter 2:1-22 / Jude 1-25..... Be Alert
- 13) 25 May..... 2 Peter 3:1-18..... Be Encouraged

INTRODUCTION

- **The Crucifixion.** A major crux of our faith is our Lord's crucifixion and Resurrection. Jesus was illegally tried, mocked, scourged and crucified by the ones who needed him the most.

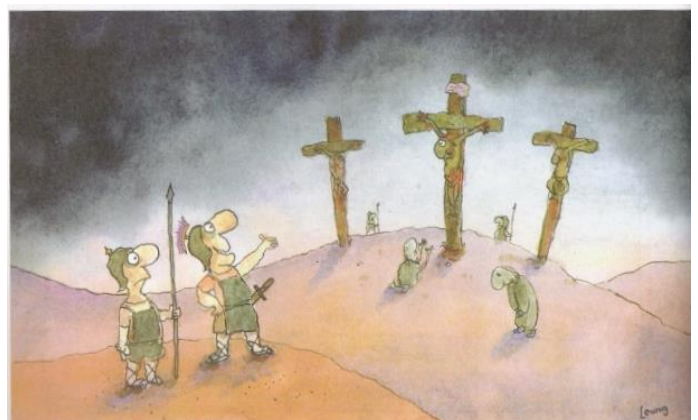
Passage	Comments
15:1-14	<p>Jesus Before Pilate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. The religious leaders' conspiracy against Christ culminated in a final board meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jesus had many trusted friends. He appeared to 500 of them soon after His Resurrection (1Cor 15:6). He touched, fed, and healed thousands, possibly more than 10,000. Where were they now? ♦ Consider This. The religious leaders took steps to avoid the crowds (Mk 14:1-2) who could have swung things differently, and to manipulate those who remained (Mat 27:20). They were devious. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who hasn't seen a Pastor be voted out when a group of unscrupulous deacons or church members abided their time till certain faithful stewards would be away from the church. • vv3-5. Jesus was silent as a lamb going to slaughter (Isaiah 53:7). Should we follow suit if we are ever judged for our faith, or should we be like Paul and appeal to Caesar (Acts 25:11), or should we be like the Apostles who were commanded to wait for the Holy Spirit to give them the right words to say (Mark 13:11)?
15:15-39	<p>Jesus is Scourged and Mocked</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilate bowed to political expediency. • v19. Roman soldiers continued spitting & hitting Him • v29. Those passing by hurled abuse at Him • v31. The chief priests mocked Him • v32. Even the 2 thieves insulted Him <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Luke records that while on the Cross Christ said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing"..... Luke 23:24 ♦ Surely, God answered His Son's prayer and forgave all those who took part in the Crucifixion? Does this mean they ALL went to Heaven? ♦ Note. This forgiveness did not grant salvation to the Lord's tormentors, but in all probability these tormentors would not be judged eternally for this particular and horrific crime – Though they would be eternally judged for all their other trespasses ♦ If these tormentors were not forgiven, they would have received many more stripes throughout eternity for the crime of tormenting and murdering the Holy Son of God along with all their other sins? • v21. Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus (this passage prompted the song 'Watch the Lamb')

Passage	Comments
	<p>Jesus is Crucified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v25. It was the 3rd hour (9 AM) when they put Him on the Cross • v33. There was darkness from Noon to 3 PM • v34. Jesus expired the 9th hour (3PM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this: Every afternoon at 3 PM, a temple priest blew a shofar. All Jews stood in silence at that sound, cause another priest cut the throat of the sacrificial lamb – the same time that Christ expired • v38. Veil torn in two. Was this Natural or Supernatural? • v32. Let's back up a bit. Mark mentions that those crucified with Him also insulted Him, but Mark did not mention the Lord forgiving one of the thieves hanging beside Him as Luke did..... Luke 23:39-43 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Remember. Mark was more focused on Jesus' deity while Luke highlighted more of His compassion
15:40-41	<p>The Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where would churches be today without faithful women tending to so many needs and ministries • v40. 3 are mentioned by name (Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and Joses, and Salome the wife of Zebedee, the mother of James & John • v41. "...many other women" possibly includes Joanna wife of Chuza, Herod's steward; Mary the mother of Jesus, Martha, and Susanna • Not only did many contributed financially to support Jesus and at least His 12 Apostles, but they were bold and brave enough to tend to His body for burial; and several would be honored to be the first to hear of His resurrection (Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Salome, Mary the wife of Cleophas/Alpheus, and others)
15:42-47	<p>Jesus is Buried</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v43. Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the (Sanhedrin) Council – "took courage" and boldly asked for the body of Christ. This was not an easy task. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How much trouble are we willing to go through for our faith. Would we risk a job loss?

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Let's be like Joseph of Arimathea & be bold and stand up for Christ
 - ♦ Be bold in your witness – do it, not just think about it.
- ...and let's be like the faithful women of Jesus' day
 - ♦ Be supportive of godly ministries – financially and physically

NEXT WEEK: Mark 16. Jesus' resurrection is highlighted – and many signs shall follow them that believe. → BUT for how long?.



"Brilliant! You kill the leader and you kill the whole movement"

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INTRODUCTION

- **The Resurrection.** No fanfare. Just the facts, and a lot of questions on the validity of the last 12 verses...“many signs shall follow them that believe” → BUT for how long?

Passage	Comments
Mark 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The crux of our faith – the Resurrection – is only addressed in 1 chapter in Matthew, Mark & Luke • The Gospel of John covers it in 2 chapters
16:1-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Magdalene and friends visit the tomb to prepare Jesus' body for formal burial, but they flee the scene (This could be Mary's 2nd trip to the tomb) • According to John, Mary M. apparently was at the tomb while it was still dark and ran into the risen Lord

Major Differences between Christianity & Other Religions

All Other Religions	Christianity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Man is searching for God • Man has a system of rules to appease their god(s) • Their gods don't do anything • Religious founders are dead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is searching for us • Christianity is a relationship with God • Our God did everything for us • We have an empty tomb

16:9-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most reliable early manuscripts and other ancient witnesses do not include this passage. Some scholars believe the last page of the original autograph was lost but the correct text was eventually edited back in.
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Received Text Tradition. Since the majority of biblical manuscripts contain this passage then the original manuscript in all probability contained it.

Critical Text Tradition. Truth is not determined by a majority vote, but by the most qualified witnesses:

1. These verses are lacking in many of the oldest and most reliable Greek manuscripts
2. There is another shorter ending to Mark that is found in some manuscripts, but the linguistic style and vocabulary are different from the rest of Mark
3. Many of the ancient church fathers reveal no knowledge of these verses, but some did (Papias, 130; Justin Martyr, 160; Tatian, 172; Tertullian, 220; Aphraates, 367; & Didymus, 398)
4. Early Christians quoted Mark 16:9–20 as Scripture before the manuscripts that left them out ever existed

- **Conclusion of the Matter.** This passage neither adds new truth nor contradicts any truth found in the Bible. Therefore, this passage is a good exercise in linguistics and hermeneutics.

16:15-18	<p>Potential Doctrinal Controversies (vv16-18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v16 – Must be baptized to be saved? • v17,18 – Sign gifts still in existence? <p>We must realize these are summarized statements and not doctrinal entreaties. We need to consider the “whole counsel of God” to accurately and appropriately assess their intended meaning.</p>
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Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we or can we not cast out demons, drink poison, speak in tongues, handle poisonous snakes, and heal the sick just as they did in the Gospels and in Acts? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know • Recall that the Apostles and some of the early disciples healed every infirmity just as Jesus did <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peter's shadow even healed people.....Acts 5:15-16 2. Paul & Barnabas worked signs & wonders.....Acts 14:3 3. Paul's handkerchief worked miraclesActs 19:11-12 4. Paul healed everyone on MaltaActs 28:9 5. Stephen performed “great wonders & signs”Acts 6:8 6. Philip did healings, signs, and miraclesActs 8:6-13 7. Paul was bitten by a viper on Malta with no affect. This seemed to directly address Mark 16:18Acts 28:3-6 • BUT these healings, signs & wonders eventually ceased as predicted in 1Cor 13:8-13, & confirmed in other epistles
16:19,20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word was being “confirmed” – Present Tense. How? Through signs & wonders, healings & miracles • Heb 2:3,4 depicts in aorist & parenthetical present tenses (respectively) that the Word of God had been confirmed by those who had gone before (Apostles and early disciples) with divers signs & miracles. • So even before the writer of Hebrews penned his book, it looks like the Holy Spirit chose to allow the “signs” to be replaced with the confirmed Word of God.

HISTORICAL CONSIDERATION

- Mark, Acts, Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, and Galatians were written before the 60's, so the "signs" could have been still going on during the writing of those books. Later epistles of the NT were written in the 60's to 90's. The later epistles do not mention the miracles depicted in Acts through Galatians, but instead highlighted chronic illnesses:
 - ♦ Paul couldn't heal Epaphroditus, but had to rely on God's mercy to restore his lifePhil 2:25-27
 - ♦ Paul didn't tell Timothy to seek out those with the gifts of healings or miracles, but told him to take some medicine (drink a little wine) for his stomach problem & other “frequent illnesses” 1Tim 5:23
 - ♦ Paul had to leave Trophimus sick in Miletum 2Tim 4:20
 - ♦ James didn't tell the sick to find someone with the gifts of healings or miracles, but to have the Elders pray for them and to confess any sin so they would receive a healing James 5:13-16

