

mark

COME FOLLOW ME

Following the God-forsaken One (Mark 15:1-39)
"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

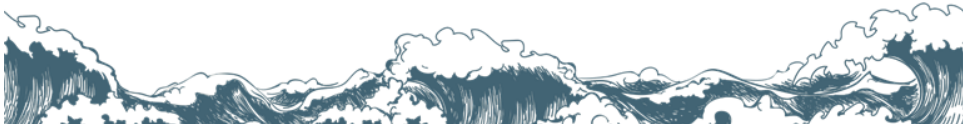
The _____ defense strategy of Jesus.

Consider all that Jesus could _____.

Consider all that Jesus could _____.

The _____ thing Jesus *DID* say.

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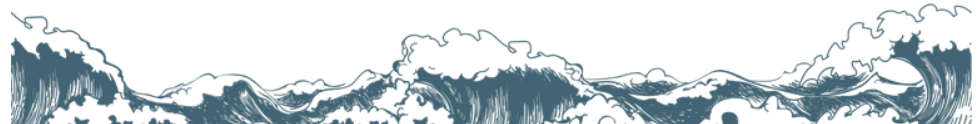
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¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. ¹⁶ And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him....

²⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹ So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

³³ And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵ And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." ³⁶ And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

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Following the God-Forsaken One

April 10, 2022



Open: Have you ever been unjustly accused of something? Share about your experience.

Read & Discuss: Mark 15:1-15

1. Why do you imagine Pilate was so amazed at Jesus' response to the many charges that were leveled at him (v. 4)? Why do you think Jesus does not defend himself when given the opportunity to do so (v. 5)? How do we know when silence is the best response to accusations?
2. Why might the crowd have been so intent on having Jesus crucified (vv. 13-14)? Why do you think those who knew Jesus, like the disciples, did not stand up for him?

Read & Discuss: Mark 15:16-32

3. Of all the things described in this passage that Jesus suffered leading up to his death, what do you think were the most painful and the most shameful? What does this indicate about the condition of humanity?
4. In light of all that Jesus could have done in response to the injustice and evil inflicted on him, what is the significance of the fact that he did not resist or fight back? (*See Isaiah 53:6, 1 Peter 2:23*) What are some practical implications for how Christians should respond to similar unjust suffering? (*See 1 Peter 2:19-21; 3:14-17*)

Read & Discuss: Mark 15:33-39

5. What does it mean to be forsaken? What does it feel like to be forsaken by someone close to you? In what sense was Jesus "forsaken" by God? (*See Isa 53:6, 10, Rom 3:25, Gal 3:13*)
6. Jesus said there is no greater expression of love than to lay down one's life for another (John 15:13). The Bible frequently speaks of Jesus' death "for us" as an expression of God the Father and Jesus' love for us. (*See Rom 5:6-8, Eph 5:2.*) What does it mean that Jesus died "for us"?
7. How do you personally experience the love of God in connection with Jesus' death? Does it seem to you as something distant and removed, or as a present, meaningful reality?
8. How might regular reflection on the death of Christ serve to instill a greater sense of God's all-encompassing love toward you? (*See Romans 8:32, 37-39.*)

Pray: Ask God to help us grow in our appreciation of what Christ did for us through His death.

Mark 15:1-15

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⁶ Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. ⁷ And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. ⁸ And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. ⁹ And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰ For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. ¹² And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³ And they cried out again, "Crucify him." ¹⁴ And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

Mark 15:16-32

¹⁶ And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

²¹ And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. ²² And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. ²⁵ And it was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶ And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹ So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

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