

Christ's Way through the Darkness-Mark 15:21-39

3.16.08

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.

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!"

Understand This Darkness

- Excuses for this darkness
 - An Eclipse? But it was Passover.
 - A Sirocco? But it was Passover.
 - A Supernatural Darkness.
- Physical Darkness and Spiritual Darkness: The Metaphor
- If anything is at the center of your life, but God, you experience spiritual darkness.
- Darkness leads to disintegration, decay, and disorientation. *Genesis 1:1*

This Darkness lets us see Our Darkness.

- Countless times in the Bible darkness is equated with sin.
 - 30 times Job alone talks of us living in darkness.
- Sin comes when we take a perfectly natural desire or longing or ambition and try desperately to fulfill it without God. Not only is it sin, it is a perverse distortion of the image of the Creator in us. All these good things, and all our security, are rightly found only and completely in him. ~Augustine*
- Our darkness comes from our desire to be free from God.
- The end of our freedom is judgment. Isaiah 13:10, Hebrews 1:3 Jer 4:23

This Darkness lets us understand His Darkness.

v.34 "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

- All human suffering is seen here in Jesus.
 - Loneliness, abandonment, betrayal, etc.
 - Slander, gossip, deceit, etc.
 - Injustice(Social and Political)
 - Physical abuse
- Not only human evil, but supernatural judgment day.
 - His cry: "My God, my God."

Christ's darkness can remove our darkness.

v.38. *And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.*

- The Holy of Holies was the place where God's glory dwelled.
 - It was a thick sturdy curtain, almost like a wall.
 - It ripped from top to bottom to show who did it.
 - Anyone can now go in it's open for all
- The Centurion was the first to in.
 - He's a hardened man.
 - What made him decide?
 - "saw that in this way he breathed his last"- "heard his cry"

What does it mean?

- No one has suffered like this.
- No one has obeyed like this.
- No one has ever trusted like this.

Why did Jesus do this?

For you, for me.

Application: _____

We'd love to help! Email us at info@crossinglouisville.com or call 339.0281 office. Visit www.crossinglouisville.com for more helpful resources, including study guides on Mar

Works Consulted : The Reason for God by Tim Keller. Confessions by St. Augustine. Commentaries by John Stott and Charles Hodge. Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem.