



HITTING THE MARK

LIVING A TRANSFORMED LIFE



The Power of the Cross

Mark 15:1-39
Michael Lim





The Power of the Cross

- What exactly is the power of the cross?
- What do we mean when we say that we must lean on the power of the cross?
- What do we mean that we must hold the cross close to our hearts?
- What should we expect to happen if and when we do so?
- Why does the cross hold such power?
- Why do we even need *the* cross of Jesus the Christ?



1 Early in the morning the chief priests with the elders and scribes and the whole Council, immediately held a consultation; and binding Jesus, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate. 2 Pilate questioned Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” And He answered him, “It is *as you say.*” 3 The chief priests began to accuse Him harshly. 4 Then Pilate questioned Him again, saying, “Do You not answer? See how many charges they bring against You!” 5 But Jesus made no further answer; so Pilate was amazed.



6 Now at the feast he used to release for them any one prisoner whom they requested. 7 The man named Barabbas had been imprisoned with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the insurrection. 8 The crowd went up and began asking him to do as he had been accustomed to do for them. 9 Pilate answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” 10 For he was aware that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.



11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to ask him to release Barabbas for them instead. 12 Answering again, Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?” 13 They shouted back, “Crucify Him!” 14 But Pilate said to them, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify Him!” 15 Wishing to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas for them, and after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.



16 The soldiers took Him away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium), and they called together the whole Roman cohort. 17 They dressed Him up in purple, and after twisting a crown of thorns, they put it on Him; 18 and they began to acclaim Him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” 19 They kept beating His head with a reed, and spitting on Him, and kneeling and bowing before Him. 20 After they had mocked Him, they took the purple robe off Him and put His own garments on Him. And they led Him out to crucify Him. 21 They pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), to bear His cross.



22 Then they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull. 23 They tried to give Him wine mixed with myrrh; but He did not take it. 24 And they crucified Him, and divided up His garments among themselves, casting lots for them to decide what each man should take. 25 It was the third hour when they crucified Him. 26 The inscription of the charge against Him read, "THE KING OF THE JEWS."



27 They crucified two robbers with Him, one on His right and one on His left. 28 [And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And He was numbered with transgressors.”] 29 Those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, and saying, “Ha! You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, 30 save Yourself, and come down from the cross!” 31 In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes, were mocking Him among themselves and saying, “He saved others; He cannot save Himself. 32 Let this Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!” Those who were crucified with Him were also insulting Him.



33 When the sixth hour came, darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour. 34 At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?” which is translated, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”
35 When some of the bystanders heard it, they began saying, “Behold, He is calling for Elijah.” 36 Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink, saying, “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 veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. 39 When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”



A) Summary: Civil Trial, Conviction, and Crucifixion (15:1-32)

1 Early in the morning the chief priests with the elders and scribes and the whole Council, immediately held a consultation; and binding Jesus, they **led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate**. 2 Pilate questioned Him, **“Are You the King of the Jews?”**

- Accusations that Jesus is the “King of the Jews”
 - Would be concern to Pilate as possible treason against Caesar
 - Pilate: Roman governor over Judea

And He answered him, **“It is as you say.”** 3 The chief priests began to accuse Him harshly. 4 Then Pilate questioned Him again, saying, “Do You not answer? See how many charges they bring against You!” 5 **But Jesus made no further answer; so Pilate was amazed.**

- Jesus’ answer: no basis for guilt; Pilate believes His innocence
 - Gives no basis for guilt of treason
 - Pilate believes Jesus is innocent



A) Summary: Civil Trial, Conviction, and Crucifixion (15:1-32)

6 Now at the feast he used to release for them any one prisoner whom they requested. 7 The man named Barabbas had been imprisoned with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the insurrection. 8 The crowd went up and began asking him to do as he had been accustomed to do for them. 9 Pilate answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” 10 For he was aware that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy. 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to ask him to release Barabbas for them instead. 12 Answering again, Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?” 13 They shouted back, “Crucify Him!” 14 But Pilate said to them, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify Him!” 15 Wishing to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas for them, and after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.

- Goodwill custom to release a prisoner
 - Offers Jesus or Barabbas, but the chief priests stir up the crowd for Barabbas (blue)
 - Note Pilate’s guilt: putting his situation over his morals (red)



A) Summary: Civil Trial, Conviction, and Crucifixion (15:1-32)

16 The soldiers took Him away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium), and they called together the whole Roman cohort. 17 They dressed Him up in purple, and after twisting a crown of thorns, they put it on Him; 18 and they began to acclaim Him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” 19 They kept beating His head with a reed, and spitting on Him, and kneeling and bowing before Him. 20 After they had mocked Him, they took the purple robe off Him and put His own garments on Him. And they led Him out to crucify Him. 21 They pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), to bear His cross.

- Jesus punished by the soldiers:
 - Scourging (whipping) (15:15 “having Jesus scourged”)
 - Mocking (15:17-20)
- Jesus delivered to be crucified:
 - Crucifixion was the cruelest form of capital punishment
 - Painful and humiliating, a punishment opposite of what the Son of God deserved but instead what we who sinned against God would receive if not for God’s great love, patience, and mercy, displayed on this cross of Jesus



A) Summary: Civil Trial, Conviction, and Crucifixion (15:1-32)

22 Then they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull. 23 They tried to give Him wine mixed with myrrh; but He did not take it. 24 And they crucified Him, and divided up His garments among themselves, **casting lots for them to decide what each man should take.** 25 It was the third hour when they crucified Him. 26 The inscription of the charge against Him read, “THE KING OF THE JEWS.” 27 **They crucified two robbers with Him, one on His right and one on His left.** 28 **[And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And He was numbered with transgressors.”]**

- Two examples of prophecies fulfilled
 - They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. (Psalm 22:18)
 - Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great,
And He will divide the booty with the strong;
Because He poured out Himself to death,
And was numbered with the transgressors;
Yet He Himself bore the sin of many,
And interceded for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:12)



A) Summary: Civil Trial, Conviction, and Crucifixion (15:1-32)

29 Those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, and saying, “Ha! You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, 30 save Yourself, and come down from the cross!” 31 In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes, were mocking Him among themselves and saying, “He saved others; He cannot save Himself. 32 Let this Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!” Those who were crucified with Him were also insulting Him.

- Others mocking Jesus on the cross
 - Passersby: Based on the chief priests saying in Mk 14:58: “We heard Him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.’ ”
 - But Mark tells us that “not even in this respect was their testimony consistent” (14:59) because Jesus had actually said to the Jews, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” (John 2:19) when they asked for a sign of authority
 - Note the irony with 15:32: Jesus was giving them the sign they promised, but they wanted to determine the sign for themselves, as many do today



B) Summary: Death on the Cross and Burial (15:33-47)

33 When the sixth hour came, **darkness** fell over the whole land until the ninth hour.

34 At the ninth hour Jesus **cried out with a loud voice**, “**ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?**” which is translated, “**MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?**”³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they began saying, “Behold, He is

calling for Elijah.” 36 Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink, saying, “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 veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.** 39 **When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”**

- Darkness (15:33) was a sign of the end times (last week’s class)
- Jesus’ cry (15:34) (more on next slide)
- Jesus’ loud cry as he breathes His last (15:37) (earlier than normal)
- Veil of the temple torn (15:38)
 - Sign of the new path to reconciliation with God, made available by God Himself, who certainly was the agent of the tearing
- Centurion’s Confession (15:39) declaring that Jesus was the Son of God



B) Summary: Death on the Cross and Burial (15:33-47)

34 At the ninth hour Jesus **cried out with a loud voice, “ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?”** which is translated, **“MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”**

- My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?
 - i) Genuine relationship with God, ii) Break in the relationship
 - At this moment on the cross, Jesus is bearing all the sins of man
 - God judges the sins of man borne by Jesus at that moment, and God cannot look upon Jesus in that moment, since God cannot look upon sin
 - This is a temporary separation between two Persons who have a relationship more loving, genuine, and intimate than we can imagine
 - Trinity is mysterious, yet God has given us a combination of Biblical truth and faith to guide us in our understanding
 - The separation is even more painful to Jesus than all the other physical suffering that He has endured in His humanity



C) The Power of the Cross

- What exactly is the power of the cross?
- What do we mean when we say that we must lean on the power of the cross?
- What do we mean that we must hold the cross close to our hearts?
- What should we expect to happen if and when we do so?
- Why does the cross hold such power?
- Why do we even need *the* cross of Jesus the Christ?



C) The Power of the Cross

- Why do we need the cross?
 - Because of our sin, we need a way to be reconciled with God, and God ordained that Jesus would be that way
 - To make a way for our reconciliation was God's determination and will
 - God created man with purpose for a certain type of relationship: free, open, intimate, and loving, untainted by shame
 - This relationship was ruined by the sin of Adam and Eve
 - This led to their banishment from the garden, which was actually the first step to reconciliation

Gen 3:22: "lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever"

- The plan for reconciliation through an absolutely holy sacrifice required Jesus to
 - Demonstrate His identity, authority, and mission as and from God
 - Remain sinless against temptation, establishing His holiness
 - Be sacrificed (to die)



C) The Power of the Cross

- Jesus demonstrates that He will be the Mediator for man
 - Jesus, the Son of God, teaches among the people
 - Contrast to God in the OT, with whom the people had to maintain distance, lest they be killed by God's holiness
 - With Jesus, there is not only no barrier, but people are even healed by His touch
 - To receive the spiritual healing by faith, we must receive the exchange of our sin for Jesus' holiness that took place on the cross
 - In doing so, we are freed from the payment of sin and from the power of sin
 - We are freed to exercise our faith in order to live a life pleasing to God by the power of the cross
 - All the lessons we have studied reflect this faith and this attitude
 - Missional Calling
 - Loving God and neighbors
 - Warnings against worldliness, division, or pride



C) The Power of the Cross

The power of the cross is the power that frees us from the punishment of sin and the power of sin. It frees us to live by the Holy Spirit as we mature in the exercise of our faith in Jesus' work on the cross and in the Father who sent Him

- Many temptations: sex, money, power, comfort (Pilate- power, comfort)
- The world catches people up in a lie that these fill all desires, yet for those first in the world with all these, sadness and brokenness persist
- But so many Christians find themselves stuck in the same ways because they don't exercise the freedom that they have
 - They don't actively trust God to provide, or to answer, or to be enough
 - They don't truly believe that He really has their best interests at heart
 - They don't truly believe that His way is best for them or that His laws are good



C) The Power of the Cross

- Search your heart
 - Identify what you are looking for
 - Pray that God would help you identify the darkness in your heart
- Pray that God would shine His light and abolish the darkness
 - God can topple the darkness in your heart the same way He toppled Dagon
 - Have faith in His power and His love and desire to heal you
- Pray for a truly repentant heart
 - If you know “in your head” that something you are doing is not right and that you want to fix it but also sense a lack of desire or fight, pray for conviction
- Wherever you are in the process
 - Be humble and honest with God
 - Have faith, trust Him, and don't give up, because God's will is that none who know Him will be lost (John 6:39 “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.”)



C) The Power of the Cross

- There is real power behind the cross because there was a real exchange of sin for righteousness
- Jesus' words, the veil torn in two, the centurion's confession, Jesus' innocence of all charges testify to this truth
- We have true reconciliation if you are a follower of Jesus, a true relationship where we can pray directly to Him
- God will respond in whatever way is best
 - He may deliver you immediately, He may test you further, but it will be for your good, because that is His love and His will
 - To make a way for our reconciliation was God's determination and will
- Give your hearts to God, and take up your cross daily
- Live freely by Jesus' work on the cross, and be a testimony to His grace



Small Group Discussion Groups

OIF Stage

Michael

Calvin

Pastor Ridge

Pastor Paul

Josh

Johannes



HITTING THE MARK

LIVING A TRANSFORMED LIFE

Discussion Questions

1. Why is the historical account of Jesus' crucifixion significant to our faith?
2. Why is Jesus on the cross the only way for man to be reconciled with God?
3. What temptations or habitual sins have you overcome through the power of the cross?