

Mark 14:12-15:8 | The Gospel According to Mark

Tyler Velin | May 7th, 2015

Welcome to the last Grizzly Christian Fellowship of the year. This is it. For 24 weeks we have been looking at the book of Mark asking ourselves the question, “Who is Jesus?” And while we have answered that question throughout the year, tonight we get the true answer, for tonight we look at the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

In looking at this we see proofs of our faith in Christ, we see theological implications, we see history, we see drama and plot. But as we look at this story tonight, I want you to hear it for you. Don’t try and figure out the story, let the story figure out you. Let it labor on you.

Remember last week we had just began the Passover celebration and Judas had just betrayed Christ. The scene is set for the death of Christ and we pick up the story on the first day of Unleavened bread.

This was the day when they would sacrifice the Passover lamb. Jesus disciples asked him “Where do you want us to go and prepare the Passover so you may eat it?”

Jesus took two of his disciples and told them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jug of water will meet you. Follow him. Wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is the guest room for me to eat the Passover meal with my disciples?’ There is where you will make preparations for us.” So going into the city the disciples found it just as Jesus had told them and they made preparations for Passover.

That evening after Jesus had come to the house with the rest of the twelve, they were reclining and eating at the table. Jesus said: “I assure you: One of you will betray me—one who is eating with Me!”

They began to be distressed and the all pleaded one but one to Jesus saying, “Surely it is not I who will betray you!?”

Jesus said to them, “It is one of the 12—the one who is dipping bread with me in the bowl” Jesus continued saying, “For the Son of Man will go as it is written about him, but woe to that man whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” At that moment reaching into the bowl with him was Judas, the betrayer, the one who had just sold the savior of the world for 30 pieces of silver.

As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it. He gave it to his disciples saying: “Take it; this is my body.”

While the disciples where still confused he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them, and so they all drank from it. He said to them, “This is my blood that establishes a new covenant; it is poured out for many. I tell you the truth: I will no longer drink the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it a new way in the Kingdom of God.” After they singing songs of worship and hymns, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

As they were on their way, Jesus said to them, “All of you will fall away, because it is written: I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered. But after I have been resurrected, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.”

Peter piped up vocally saying, “Even if everyone falls away, I will certainly not!”

Jesus said to him, “I tell you the truth Peter, today, this very night before the rooster crows twice you will deny me three times!”

But Peter kept insisting saying, “If I have to die with you Lord, I will never deny you!” At this point all of the disciples joined in saying the same thing.

But they had then arrived at the garden called Gethsemane, he told his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took Peter, James and John with him, and he went on a little further where he became deeply burdened. Jesus said to the three, “My soul is sorrowful even to the point of death. Remain here, stay awake and pray.” Then he went a little farther, fell to the ground, and he began to pray. Knowing that the hour of the cross was at hand he began to pray that if were possible the hour might pass from him. He said, “Abba, Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me, yet not what I will but what you will.”

Jesus returned to the three and found them sleeping, “Peter are you sleeping!” Jesus asked him, “Couldn’t you stay awake for one hour? Stay away and pray that you won’t enter into temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Once more Jesus went away and prayed the same thing, that the hour would be removed. Coming back he found them asleep once more because it was late and they couldn’t keep their eyes open. They did not know what to say to him. A third time Jesus came back, and a third time they were sleeping. This time Jesus spoke to them saying, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The time has come. Look, the Son of Man is being betrayed in the hands of sinners. Get up; let’s go! See—my betrayer is near.”

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve suddenly arrived. With him was a mob with swords and clubs. A mob from the chief priests, scribes and elders. Judas had given them a signal saying, “The one I kiss, he is the one arrest him and take him away under guard.” Judas then approached Jesus in the garden and said, “Rabbi” and kissed him. The mob took hold of Jesus and arrested him, but not before one who stood by drew his sword and struck the high priest’s slave, cutting off his ear.

But Jesus said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs, as though I am a criminal, to capture me? Did I not stand in your courts everyday teaching in the temple? Why not arrest me there? But the scriptures must be fulfilled.”

Then, all Jesus’ disciples deserted him, and ran. There was a certain young man who was wearing a linen cloth, and when the guards sized him he was so eager to not be taken with Christ that he left his clothes and ran away naked.

So the mob led Jesus away to the high priest. And all the chief priests, the elders and the scribes convened. Peter followed, but at a distance so as not to be noticed. He followed right up to the courtyard of the High Priest, but went no further, and there he stayed warming himself by the fire as Jesus was taken deeper into the complex.

Inside the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they could find none. Even though many were giving false testimony their testimonies did not agree. Some stood up and were giving false testimony against them saying, “We heard him say “I will demolish this temple made by hands and in three days make a new temple not made by hands.” Yet even in this their testimony did not agree.

Then the high priest stood up before them all and questioned Jesus, “Don’t you have an answer to what these men are testifying against you? Why do you not defend yourself?” But he kept silent and said nothing in his defense. The High Priest offered a more pointed question, “Are you the messiah, the son of the Blessed one?”

“I am” said Jesus, “And all of you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the power and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

Hearing this the High Priest tore his robes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? Is this not enough? We have heard the blasphemy? Dear court, what is your decision?”

And they all condemned him to be deserving of death. Then some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to beat him saying in jest, “Prophecy!” Then the temple police also took him and slapped him.

Meanwhile, Peter was in the courtyard below. One of the High Priest’s servants came, seeing Peter warming himself by the fire she said to him, “You are with that Nazarene, Jesus.”

But he denied it: “I don’t know or understand what you are talking about!” Then he went out to the entryway, and a rooster crowed.

When the servant saw him again she began to whisper to those standing by, “This man is one of them, a follower of Jesus.”

But again, Peter denied it. Only a little more time passed before those standing there said, “You are certainly one of his followers for you are a Galilean!” Then he started to curse and swear an oath, “I swear I do not know this man you are talking about.”

Immediately a rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered what Jesus had said, “Before the rooster crows you will deny me three times.” And Peter began to weep. Where Judas had betrayed the Christ, Peter had just denied him.

In the morning the chief priests had a meeting with the elders, scribes and the whole Sanhedrin. For they had to decide what to do next for they had to appeal to the Roman authorities before any action was taken against Jesus. So tying him up, they led Jesus away to Pilate the Roman official.

Pilate asked him in a new trial, “Are you King of the Jews?”

Jesus answered him, “You have said it.”

And the chief priests began to accuse him of many things. Then Pilate questioned him again saying, “Are you not answering anything? Look how many things they are accusing you of? Why do you not speak?” But Jesus still did not answer anything, so Pilate was amazed.

At the festival of Passover it was Pilate’s custom to release to the Jews one of their own prisoners. In prison was a Jew named Barabbas who was a murderer. The crowd came to Pilate and asked him to do as was his custom and release a prisoner. Perceiving that it was out of envy that the chief priest’s wanted Jesus dead, he said, “Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” But the chief priests stirred up the crowd asking for the release of Barabbas instead.

Pilate asked them again, “Then what do you want me to do with the one you call King of the Jews?”

Again they shouted, “Crucify him!”

Pilate said to them, “Why? What has he done wrong?” But ignoring the question they shouted all the more, “Crucify Him!”

Then, willing to gratify the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. And after having Jesus flogged and whipped, he handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led Jesus away into their headquarters and called the whole company of soldiers together. They mocked him by dressing him in purple robes, the color of royalty. They fashioned for him a crown made not of silver or gold, but of thorns, pressing it into his flesh. And they began to salute him saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They kept hitting him on the head with staffs and spitting on him. Getting down on their knees before him they paid false homage to him. When they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple robe, but his clothes on him and led him out to be crucified.

Now it was the custom for the prisoner to carry his own cross but because Jesus’ beating was so intense they found a man named Simon, a Cyrenian to carry the cross for him. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha which means the place of the skull. There they tried to give him rude drink of wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. Then they crucified him and divided his clothes, casting lots to see who would take away a trinket to remember his death.

It was nine in the morning when they began to crucify him and on his cross was written the charge against him: The King of the Jews.

They crucified him between two criminals, one on his left, and one on his right. In so doing the scripture was fulfilled that he would be numbered among the transgressors. Those who passed by yelled insults at him, shaking their heads, laughing while saying “The one who would demolish the temple and build it in three days. Save yourself! Come down from the cross!” In the same way the chief priests with the scribes were mocking him to one another saying, “He saved others; but he cannot save himself! Let the Messiah, the King of Israel come down now from the cross, so that we may see and believe.” Even those who were crucified with him were taunting him.

When it was noon, midday, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” Which translated, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “Look, He’s calling for Elijah!

Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, and offered him a drink saying, “Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down.”

But Jesus let out a loud cry and breathed his last. And immediately in the temple, the curtain which separated the Holy of Holies from the Courtyard, the divider between the presence of God and the people of God, as if by unseen hands was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood before Jesus heard his cry, with much sincerity he confessed, “Truly this man was the son of God.”

In the distance stood a few women who had followed Jesus’ ministry watching as their messiah died.

When it was already evening they sought to remove Jesus from the cross for the Sabbath was nearing. Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Sanhedrin went boldly in before Pilate to request Jesus’ body. Pilate was surprised that Jesus was already dead for it often takes days for someone to die by crucifixion, but when this was confirmed by a centurion he gave the corpse to Joseph.

After he bought some fine linen he took Jesus down from the cross and wrapped him in it. Then he placed Jesus in tomb cut in the rock and with the help of many Roman soldiers they rolled a stone over the entrance of the tomb.

Now Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus watched where Jesus was laid.

Three days later, after the Sabbath, Mary and Mary bought spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they went to the tomb at sunrise. Although they were having a great debate for they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone from the entrance of the tomb for us." For it was very heavy. But looking up, they observed the stone, which was very large, had been already rolled away.

Entering the tomb they saw a young man dressed in a long robe sitting on the right side; they were amazed and afraid. "Do not be afraid," he told them. "You are Looking for Jesus the Nazarene who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here. See the place where they put him! Now go, tell his disciples, and tell Peter, "He is going ahead of you into Galilee; you will find him there just as he told you."

So they went out startled running from the tomb, because trembling and amazement overwhelmed them. And they said nothing to anyone since they were afraid.

So ends the gospel of Mark. And what Mary and Mary were beginning to wrap their minds around we are able to have a greater perspective on. Jesus is the Christ.

Note: The closing application of this sermon is not available in the manuscript.