



JUST JESUS: A Journey Through Mark

PART 65 - 15:1- 6

Who Is Really in Control?

READ: Mark 15:1–2 AND Daniel 7:13–14

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) From outward appearances in Mark 15:1–2, who seems to have the power? What details in the scene make Jesus appear powerless?
- 2) Why did the accusation against Jesus change when the Jewish leaders brought Him before Pilate? What was Pilate really trying to determine when he asked, “Are You the King of the Jews?”
- 3) Pastor Greg said, “Pilate thinks he is investigating a potential rival to Caesar. He has no idea just how big the question he has asked really is.” How does Daniel 7:13–14 change the meaning of Pilate’s question, “Are You the King of the Jews?”
- 4) Think about a situation in your own life that currently feels as though someone or something else is calling the shots. How might remembering that Jesus is still King change the way you face that situation?

When the Accusations Come

READ: Mark 15:3–4 AND Exodus 20:16

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Mark describes the chief priests as continually accusing Jesus. According to Luke’s account, they even reshape their accusations into charges that will matter to Rome. What does this reveal about how far they are willing to go to accomplish what they want?
- 2) These men were supposed to be guardians and teachers of God’s Law, yet they violated the command against bearing false witness while convincing themselves they were serving God. What warning does that give us about allowing our desired outcome to justify ungodly methods?
- 3) Why is our natural reaction to being misunderstood or falsely accused usually to defend ourselves immediately? When is defending ourselves appropriate, and when might wisdom or trust in God call us to remain silent?
- 4) Pastor Greg said, “We don’t need a Roman governor or a potential death sentence before we start defending ourselves!” What kinds of situations most quickly trigger that instinct in you? What would it look like to pause and seek God before reacting?

The Power of Surrender

READ: Mark 15:5 AND Isaiah 53:7

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Pilate was amazed that Jesus refused to defend Himself. According to Isaiah 53:7, how does Jesus’ silence fit into the larger biblical picture of what the Messiah came to do?
- 2) Pastor Greg said, “Jesus isn’t silent because He has no defense. He is silent because He isn’t trying to escape the cross.” How does knowing Jesus willingly continued toward the cross change the way you understand what is happening in this scene?
- 3) Jesus had already prayed in Gethsemane, “Not what I will, but what You will.” What is the difference between biblical surrender to God and simply giving up or becoming passive when circumstances are difficult?
- 4) Where might God currently be asking you to surrender an outcome to Him? What would it look like to remain actively faithful while leaving the result in God’s hands?

Faithful With Today

READ: Mark 15:6 AND Proverbs 3:5–6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Mark suddenly introduces Pilate’s Passover custom of releasing a prisoner. Why does this new information create a moment of uncertainty in the story? If you were hearing Mark for the first time, what questions would you now be asking about what happens next?

- 2) Pastor Greg said, "Trusting God does not mean believing everything happening around us is good or that everything will work out in the ways we desire." Why is that distinction important? How is trusting God different from pretending painful or unjust circumstances are somehow good?
- 3) What do you think Pastor Greg meant by asking, "What does faithfulness look like for me RIGHT NOW?" How can that question help when the future feels overwhelming or beyond our control?
- 4) The sermon ends with the declaration that "the most powerful Person in YOUR situation is still Jesus." What is one situation you need to place back into Jesus' hands this week, and what is one specific act of obedience or faithfulness that remains in yours?