



JUST JESUS: A Journey Through Mark

PART 67 - 15:16 - 21

The King They Couldn't See

READ: Mark 15:16–18 AND Genesis 3:17–19

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) The soldiers dressed Jesus like a king because they believed His claim to kingship was ridiculous. What makes their mock coronation so powerful when we know who Jesus actually is?
- 2) Genesis connects humanity's rebellion against God with the curse of thorns. How does that background change the way you see the crown of thorns placed on Jesus' head?
- 3) Pastor G said, "Sin brought us DEATH. Sin brought us THORNS. And Jesus is about to bear BOTH." What does that image communicate to you about what Jesus came to accomplish?
- 4) The soldiers were looking directly at the King of creation and couldn't recognize Him. What are some ways people can encounter evidence of who Jesus is today and still fail to recognize or acknowledge Him?

When Worship Is Only A Performance

READ: Mark 15:19 AND Philippians 2:9–11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) The soldiers kneel, bow, and treat Jesus like a king, yet none of it is genuine. What does their behavior teach us about the difference between the outward actions of worship and genuine worship?
- 2) Philippians says that one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. How does that future reality change the significance of what the soldiers are doing in Mark 15?
- 3) Pastor G said, "Worship isn't merely bending your knees. Worship is surrendering your LIFE." What does surrendering your life to Jesus look like beyond what happens during a worship service?
- 4) Where is it easiest for Christians to give Jesus the outward appearance of surrender while still holding something back from Him?

The King Chooses The Cross

READ: Mark 15:20 AND John 10:17–18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Mark says the soldiers "led Him out," while John records Jesus saying that no one takes His life from Him but that He lays it down willingly. How do those two truths change the way you picture Jesus walking toward Calvary?
- 2) Rome intended crucifixion to communicate shame, intimidation, and its own power. What does the cross ultimately reveal instead about the power and character of Jesus?
- 3) Pastor G said, "They think they're leading Him. He is CHOOSING to go." Why is Jesus' willingness to suffer important to our understanding of His love and sacrifice for us?
- 4) Jesus could have stopped what was happening, yet He continued toward the cross. What does His willing obedience teach us about trusting God when obedience is painful or costly?

When The Cross Interrupts Our Plans

READ: Mark 15:21 AND Mark 8:34–35

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Simon was simply passing by when Rome suddenly forced him to carry Jesus' cross. Try to put yourself into that moment. What might Simon have thought or felt as his plans disappeared and he found himself walking behind Jesus?
- 2) Mark does not tell us Simon was voluntarily obeying Jesus or consciously fulfilling Mark 8:34. Even so, why is the image of Simon carrying a cross behind Jesus such a powerful echo of Jesus' earlier call to discipleship?
- 3) Pastor G said, "Following Jesus will sometimes put the cross where WE had plans." When have you experienced God interrupting your plans or asking you to change direction in order to follow Him?

4) What is one area of your life where you are most tempted to say, "Jesus is Lord, as long as He agrees with me" or "I surrender all, except THAT"? What would fully following Jesus look like in that area?