

What comes to mind

- What comes to mind when you think...
 - of newborn babies?
 - of billionaires?
 - of politics?
 - of religion?
 - of God (the Father)?
 - of Jesus of Nazareth?

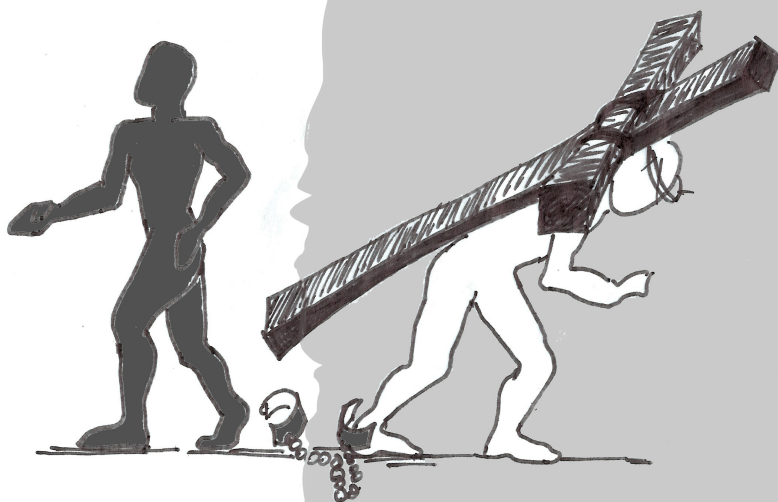
A Death that brings Life

Mark 15:1-15

Brown (English) Bible: Page 1021

White (Spanish) Bible: Page _

Red (Chinese) Bible: Page _



The Jews and the Romans

- Romans
 - held the final authority
 - the only power for capital punishment (death penalty)
 - Caesar: highest authority
 - Pilate: local authority
- Jews
 - under Roman authority could manage own affairs
 - Sanhedrin (chief priests, elders, teachers of the law): highest Jewish authority

Trials of Jesus

1. By Jews (Sanhedrin): religious power and theology (cp. 14)
 - **Worst crime is Blasphemy:**
claiming the authority/identity of God
 - High priest to Jesus: “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”
 - Jesus: “I am.”
2. By Romans (Pilate): secular concerns (cp. 15)
 - **Worst crime is Insurrection:** violent rebellion
 - Chief priests to Pilate:
He claims to be the king of the Jews.

Mark 15:1-15

1: Jesus is handed over for Roman judgment

2-5:

6-14:

15:

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2-5: Pilate is amazed at Jesus' restraint in the face of false accusations → No verdict

6-14:

15:

Why didn't Jesus defend Himself?

Pilate ...asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” ...
 Jesus said, “**My kingdom is not of this world.** If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

John 18:33-36

- Jesus was not a political Messiah
- So He avoided the political interpretation (the “Messianic secret”)
- The political interpretation is how they killed him

Why didn't Jesus defend Himself?

In chapter 14, Jesus prayed:

“Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

Mark 14:36

- He got the answer: God’s will for Jesus was the cross
- So Jesus went forward without resistance

Why didn't Jesus defend Himself?

He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

Isaiah 53:7

Mark 15:1-15

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6-14: Pilate tries and fails to find an easy way
to release Jesus

15:

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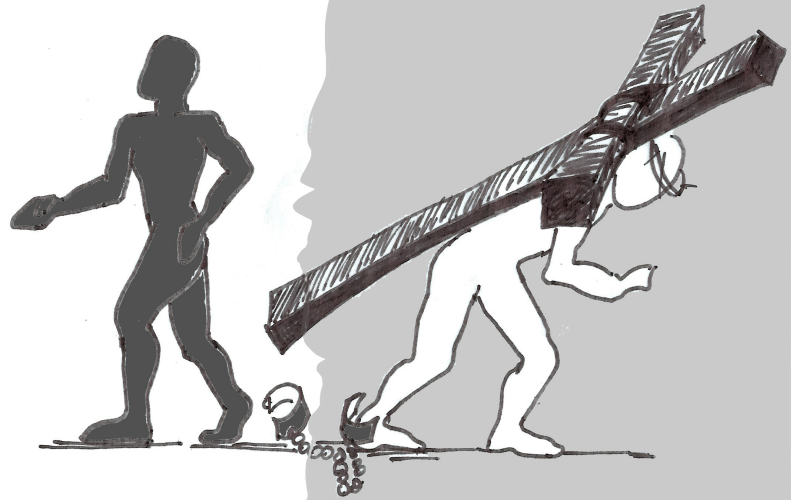
15: Pilate gives in and condemns Jesus to flogging and crucifixion

Flogging = whipping someone with leather straps that include bits of bone and lead

So cruel and severe that people often died

God made him who
had no sin to be sin
for us, so that in him
we might become the
righteousness of God.

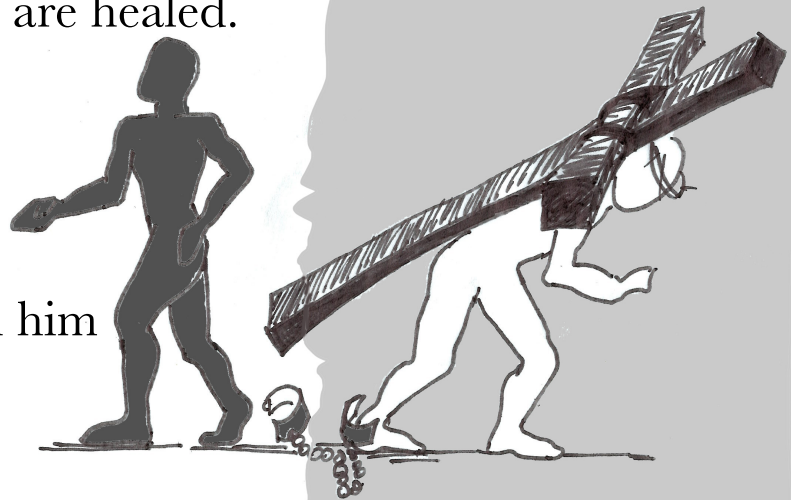
2 Corinthians 5:21



But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

We all, like sheep,
have gone astray,
each of us has turned
to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:5-6



Things were not what they should have been

Known insurrectionist
(Barabbas) is freed

Innocent man (Jesus)
is killed for insurrection

Priests are called
to appeal to God
to forgive the guilty

Priests
appealed to man
to condemn the innocent

Authorities are to use their
position to promote justice

Pilate used injustice to
promote his position

At the cross,
Jesus experienced
the worst injustice

At the cross,
I experience
the greatest grace

The Big Idea

"I AM THE LIFE"

Jesus willingly
chose to die

- **shamed** before God and man,
- regarded as **guilty** by God and man,
- treated as **vulnerable** before Satan and man

in the sinner's place
to save sinner **SHAMEFUL,**
who aren't worth saving **GUILTY,**
VULNERABLE

Implications

1. Delight in this great love of God!

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. **We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Implore = beg earnestly

Reconciled = restored relationship, friendship

Implications

1. Delight in this great love of God!
2. Willingly take the road of suffering, persecution, mistreatment, and accusation as we follow Jesus

But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because **Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.**

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

1 Peter 2:20-23

Commendable = deserving praise

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