

Victory By Surrender: The Gospel of Mark

A study for Community Groups to use the week of September 27th

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Series Guide** below along with the foundational questions we ask each week.

Week 33: Mark 15:1-41

Overview

Mark doesn't just tell us what Jesus did; he shows us who Jesus is in a way that forces us to rethink the world we're living in and the stories we're being sold every day.

"All the synoptic writers also recorded the symbolic act of the tearing of the temple veil. They did not explain it, but the writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews did (Heb. 6:19-20; 9:1-14; 10:19-22). It represented God opening a way into His presence by the death of His Son. The veil was probably the great outer one that separated the holy place from the courtyard. If so, it would have been observed by many people. Priests would have been preparing the evening sacrifices in the temple when this event occurred near 3:00 p.m." -**Constable's Notes**

Questions

*In the Series Guide you will find basic questions we want all to use as they begin to look at the passage. Questions such as; *Who have you had the opportunity to BLESS this week? What does this passage reveal about God? About people? About the life He has planned for us?* These additional questions relate to the passage specifically for your benefit.

1. Barabbas is guilty, yet he walks free because Jesus takes the cross meant for him. What does this exchange teach us about both justice and grace? How does seeing yourself in Barabbas's place change the way you understand what Jesus did for you?
2. When Jesus dies, "the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom" (Mark 15:38). What does the torn curtain reveal about what Jesus accomplished on the cross? Where are you still tempted to earn or prove something to God that Jesus has already provided?
3. A Roman centurion, an unlikely outsider, looks at Jesus and declares, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:39). What does his response show us about who the good news of Jesus is for? Who in your life may believe they are too far gone, too guilty, or too far from God, and how could you point them toward the grace of Jesus this week?