

Today:
March 15, 2015

Scripture Focus: Mark 15:1-20

15 Very early in the morning the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law—the entire high council—met to discuss their next step. They bound Jesus, led him away, and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor. ² Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus replied, “You have said it.” ³ Then the leading priests kept accusing him of many crimes, ⁴ and Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer them? What about all these charges they are bringing against you?” ⁵ But Jesus said nothing, much to Pilate’s surprise.

⁶ Now it was the governor’s custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner—anyone the people requested. ⁷ One of the prisoners at that time was Barabbas, a revolutionary who had committed murder in an uprising. ⁸ The crowd went to Pilate and asked him to release a prisoner as usual. ⁹ “Would you like me to release to you this ‘King of the Jews’?” Pilate asked. ¹⁰ (For he realized by now that the leading priests had arrested Jesus out of envy.) ¹¹ But at this point the leading priests stirred up the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus. ¹² Pilate asked them, “Then what should I do with this man you call the king of the Jews?” ¹³ They shouted back, “Crucify him!” ¹⁴ “Why?” Pilate demanded. “What crime has he committed?” But the mob roared even louder, “Crucify him!” ¹⁵ So to pacify the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

(Mark 15:1-15, New Living Translation)

Notes from Worship:

How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?

Questions for Discussion:

- Knowing all the royal O.T. prophecies that he himself fulfilled, why do you think Jesus answered Pilate’s “king of the Jews” question so evasively?
- How could the crowd have been convinced to ask for release of a murderer instead of a popular rabbi? How easily can crowds today be swayed by powerful leaders?

This Week: **March 16-21**

Scripture Readings:

Monday 3/16	Tuesday 3/17	Wednesday 3/18	Thursday 3/19	Friday 3/20	Saturday 3/21
Isaiah 18-22	Isaiah 23-26	2 Kings 18:1-8; 2 Chron. 29-31 Psalm 48	Isaiah 27-30	Isaiah 31-35	Isaiah 36-37; 2 Kings 18:9- 19:37; 2 Chm. 32:1-23 Psalm 76

Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

Monday

What strikes you about these prophecies against foreign nations (Isaiah 18-21)?

Tuesday

How powerful do you find the words of praise (Isaiah 25-26) after all the words of judgment in previous chapters?

Wednesday

What do you learn about King Hezekiah in these chapters? Why was he important?

Thursday

These chapters are full of “woes.” What similar “woes” might Isaiah speak to us today?

Friday

Isaiah 35 describes a joyful road to Zion! When have you felt this kind of joy in your life?

Saturday

What do all these different scripture passages have in common?

Taking Scripture to Heart:

As we continue focusing on the life and teachings of Jesus, our memory text is **Matthew 5:43-48**. Let these verses dwell within you, to help you focus on Jesus Christ, the center of our faith.

Next Sunday: March 22, 2015

Theme: Crucifixion of Jesus

Scripture Focus: *Psalm 22:1, 6-8, 15-18; Ps. 69:19-21; Mark 15:20b-37*