

Making Space to Wait on the Cross with Jesus Mark 15:22-32

Mark 15:22-32 - New International Version (NIV)

²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). ²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. ²⁵ It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁷ They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. ^[28] ²⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ come down from the cross and save yourself!” ³¹ In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself!” ³² Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

The cross is pattern of our lives. Everything happened to Jesus in some way happens to us. - *Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23*
- *I am crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. Galatians.2:20*

What is the cross God has placed before on?

- Loving our enemies
- Hard things you need to do - confront boss/coworker, break off relationship
- A difficult singleness (sexual integrity) - hard work in marriage (rather run)
- Disability/wound/limitation - you carry.
- Damage people done to you in past, scarred...
- Aggravating, frightening circumstance

The Invitation of God is to wait on cross with Jesus (you can jump off!!!) It is hopeful, courageous, confident way of being. Standing in the world erect. Facing the reality that surrounds us. With all our hearts - remain in relationship, in communion, waiting, listening, open

To Hurry: Key word - “NOW” v.32 *“come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.”*
The greatest miracle Jesus ever did was the miracle He did not do. Right here. This is 2nd greatest miracle in Scripture - after the resurrection! God and we are on different timetables. A day to God is like a thousand years!

Distraction: Distractions serve to numb the pain of waiting, of despair and lack of faith; i.e. - addictions, busyness, denial, blaming others, self loathing, bitterness, etc

This approach is not centered in the love of the Father and it takes us away from our true selves. Thus we miss what God is doing in us.

(He is stripping us of false self - freeing true self -LOVE- free from what others think, what you do, what you own).The deep work of God in us aborted. Not birthed. We don’t see thru to resurrection

This is the slower, deeper way of salvation: *“When I am weak, then I am strong.”*
2 Corinthians 12:10

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God 1 Corinthians 1:18

We can learn two things (2 applications) from Jesus as He waits on the Cross:

1. Communion/relationship...
2. Companions for the Journey ; Our need for spiritual companions. (vv.55-56)

Discussion Questions:

1. Read the passage from Mark. What are your reactions and insights? What key words or phrases stand out to you? Spend a few minutes in silence before sharing your responses.
2. Who were the witnesses mentioned during the crucifixion? Putting yourself in their shoes, what do you think was the motivation for the things they said and did?
3. What were the consequences (trials, anguish) and the positive outcomes of Jesus' obedience on the cross? What might be the consequences (trials, anguish) and positive outcomes God promises to **you** if you will trust Him to stay on the cross?
4. What might be the outcomes if you choose **not** to stay on the cross? (short and long term)?
5. Do you have "distractions" that you tend to default to in times when God is seemingly not answering your prayers?
6. Can you identify companions in your life who (do or who can) walk through this journey of following Christ with you?
7. Are there any personal examples you can share about the contrast between God's timing and our timing in getting a breakthrough when in trials?

Choose one of the scripture passages mentioned above or one that seems pertinent and pray them over each other's situations.