

## Daily Bible Study

### *“Silent Savior”*

#### *Mark 15:1-5*

*February 17 – 23, 2013*

**THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY** –It is our pleasure to return to our studies in Mark and take as our text for this week **Mark 15:1-5**. We saw in previous lessons that the religious leaders had carried out an illegal and sham trial of Jesus whereby they condemned Jesus *to be worthy of death* (**Mark 14:64**). We see as we open **chapter 15** there is a reconvening of the Jewish council. As we mentioned in weeks past, in a case of capital crime Jewish law did not permit the sentence to be pronounced until a day after the accused had been convicted. This was to ensure legality and fairness and prevent a rush to judgment. So now, at early dawn, the religious leaders bind Jesus, lead him away, and deliver him to Pilate for confirmation and execution of the death sentence they had imposed on Jesus. The actual trial before Pilate occupies the first **15 verses** of this **chapter** where we will see that the chief priests attempt to present charges against Jesus which would in short accuse Him and portray Him as a revolutionary, a man who wanted to be king. So in our text, Pilate questions Jesus concerning this and Jesus, our *Silent Savior* refuses to answer and we find that Pilate is amazed. Read our text **Mark 15:1-5**: “Immediately, in the morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council; and they bound Jesus, led Him away, and delivered Him to Pilate. Then Pilate asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” He answered and said to him, “It is as you say.” And the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing. Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, “Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You!” But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marveled.”

Suggestion for Prayer: God, please help me see the glory of Jesus as I study this Scripture.

**TUESDAY** – **Mark 15:1**: “Immediately, in the morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council; and they bound Jesus, led Him away, and delivered Him to Pilate.” As we have seen, the Jewish authorities had arrested Jesus, given Him a late night trial in which they couldn’t keep their stories straight, and then falsely condemned Him to death for blasphemy (**14:64**). Now, *Immediately, in the morning*, the Sanhedrin meet to confirm their false conclusions and move forward their ultimate plan, to kill Jesus. They had no power themselves to carry out the death penalty as Israel was under Roman control and that penalty had to be imposed by the Roman governor and carried out by the Roman authorities. From the gospel of Luke we learn more of how determined and twisted these men were in

their bitter malice. The charge they had arrived at was blasphemy, insulting God but that was not the charge they brought before Pilate. They knew Pilate was not interested in a Jewish religious argument so they instead charge him with *perverting the nation, forbidding them to pay taxes to Caesar and calling himself a king* (**Luke 23:1–2**). They had to create a political charge or Pilate would not have listened. They knew the charge was a lie—and so did Pilate. As we continue we see *they bound Jesus...* There was no need for this. Jesus went willingly with them as we learned from the arrest in the garden. Judas knew He would and Jesus Himself asks why they came with the clubs and swords and so forth. This is the Son of Man carrying out His mission, not primarily theirs. **John 8:36** and **Galatians 5:1** tell us, “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” & “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.” Interesting is the fact the man who had *come to make men free* was bound.

Suggestion for Prayer: Jesus, help me understand Your deep love for me, Your incredible humility, and determined, willful obedience to carry out the Divine plan of Salvation.

**WEDNESDAY** – **Mark 15:1**: “Immediately, in the morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council; and they bound Jesus, led Him away, and delivered Him to Pilate.” Before we look at a short profile of this man Pilate, let’s finish the two other phrases mentioned by Mark which carry prophetic significance. The text says, they *led Him away, and delivered Him to Pilate*. As Jesus is led away we hear the words of **Isaiah 53:7** where the prophet says ... *He was led as a lamb to the slaughter...* Here the willing and humble Suffering Servant allows Himself to be led away by prideful, rebellious man. Next, Mark records that the leaders *delivered Him to Pilate*. Interestingly, Mark uses the same language that he used recording Jesus words in **Mark 10:33** where Christ says the religious leaders would among other things *deliver Him to the Gentiles...* The Old Testament Scriptures had also prophesied this deliverance centuries before. The Scripture prophesied that Jesus would be killed outside the camp and the scapegoat of **Leviticus 16** symbolically pictured the Messiah would be cut off from the presence of God and the people of God. He would be delivered to pagan peoples and the fulfillment of **Psalms 22:16** speaking of those pagan “dogs” (*For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me.*) begins here in the delivery of the Son of Man to Pilate, the Gentile ruler.

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, I understand one of the reasons why You declared Your pleasure with Jesus as I look at this passage. Jesus, I praise and worship You for Your faithfulness to carry out the Divine plan. Help me to also follow You and live like You.

**THURSDAY** – **Mark 15:2-5**: “Then Pilate asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” He answered and said to him, “It is as you say.” And the chief priests accused Him of many

things, but He answered nothing. Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, “Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You!” But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marveled.” The Romans appointed Governors over the lands that they had conquered and Pilate was the 5<sup>th</sup> Governor of Judea and he held office for 11 years from A.D. 26 to A.D. 37 which is the longest tenure for this particular post. This post was one that was not on the most desired list and was a political hot potato so to speak and Pilate’s long tenure probably indicates a lack of political success on his part. Pilate, who ancient historians record was stubborn, merciless, inflexible and cruel was eventually fired and banished from government by Emperor Caligula. He had put down several uprisings from the Jews in a brutal fashion and had seemed to enjoy provoking them at various times including when he brought the Roman legions into the Temple area with banners proclaiming the Roman Caesar and shields inscribed with Roman deities which was seen as blasphemous by the Jews. Needless to say, this man was not a real friend of the Jews but since he had the power to put Jesus to death they came to Him with their prisoner. We will now begin to look at the very first portion of the discussion between Jesus and Pilate as recorded by Mark which is as we have noted throughout the gospel, a short and summarized account. In looking at all the gospel records you get the impression that Pilate does everything in his power to get rid of the case as he obviously had no love for the Jews and hated to please them or grant their request. But he was in a sense afraid of them and the possibility they might use their influence and go over his head to Rome to hurt him. He is willing to do what justice demands up to a point but when the personal pressure comes to him, he caves in. Then Pilate asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” and we find Jesus gives a concise answer to this, “It is as you say.” The pronoun *You* is emphatic and it is as if Pilate is saying “You are the King of the Jews? This is ridiculous”. Jesus does not see the incredulity in the question and answers clearly with an affirmative by saying, *It is as you say*. We can’t overstate this point that Jesus clearly affirms this fact. If we look over to the Johannine record we find that Jesus gives an explanation of His Kingship and His Kingdom. **John 18:34-36**: “Jesus answered him, “Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?” Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.” Jesus is telling Pilate that He is no threat to his political rule because His Kingdom is a transcendent, high, and ultimate. Every King, Governor, and Emporor will one day stand before Him. The text continues with ...*And the chief priests accused Him of many things... See how many things they testify against You!* It seems Pilate proceeded from the assumption that an accused person is guilty unless he can prove himself to be innocent. It’s not how loud the crowd or individual raises their voice that determines right and wrong but rather the law of the Holy God and all the voices will be silenced on the last at the final judgment (**Romans 3:19**).

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for exalting Jesus to Your right hand and establishing Him as the ruling King whose Kingdom has no end. Help me live in obedient submission to Him. Jesus, although You rule as King over all, I thank You for being so patient and gracious to sinners. I look forward to the revealing of Your Kingly Glory at the last day.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY – Mark 15:2-5**: “Then Pilate asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” He answered and said to him, “It is as you say.” And the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing. Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, “Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You!” But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marveled.” It is a fact that there is a time when silence is more eloquent than words and it says things that words can never say. Many reasons exist for a person being silent: admiration, contempt, fear, sorrow, hurt, and grief among others. This silence screams of the tragedy of this situation. Jesus stands here amidst the horrible injustice as a man at peace with God. He is quite a contrast to the turmoil of sinners and the wretched uneasy human heart. Pilate had tried many cases and had many people stand before him; both accusers and accused. He had seen the vocal outcries of guilty men clamoring to convince the judge. Pilate asks Jesus, *Do You answer nothing?* Even though Pilate sees the truth standing before him, as man he wants to see Jesus defend Himself. He was sure of the innocence of Jesus and saw through the envy of the leaders but was hoping Jesus would answer these charges and relieve him of the burden. Here, the vocal ones are the accusers and the accused stands here calm and peaceful. There is no aggressive, boisterous defense from Jesus rather a **Silent Savior**; quiet, dignified, and serene. As we saw earlier, **Isaiah 53:7** reminds us that *He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth*. This silence was partly a fulfillment of prophecy. The silence was also there because Jesus knew Pilate knew the truth of his innocence and that the Jewish leaders were guilty of lying and no response was necessary. It is a fact that on four recorded occasions during the last hours of Jesus life He “opened not his mouth”. Before Caiaphas (**Mark 14:60-61**), Pilate (**Mark 15:4-5**), Herod (**Luke 23:9b**), and again before Pilate (**John 19:9b**). The **Silent Savior** in this moment spoke louder than words. He in pure and perfect controlled silence condemns his accusers and proves He in fact was the anointed Messiah of Scripture, the very Son of God and God the Son. Our text and the entire scene unfolds *so that Pilate marveled*. The Greek word is θαυμάζειν [thaumazo] which means to wonder, to marvel, to be had in admiration. He marveled and admired among other things the self-control of Jesus. This type of humble self control according to the Apostle Paul in **Galatians 5** is evidence of The Holy Spirit.

Suggestion for Prayer: Jesus, I also marvel at You as I read this text. How quick I am to always attempt to defend myself, raising my voice louder than the next person. You who alone are perfectly Holy and sinless took an undeserved punishment for me. Thank You Jesus.