

## Chapter 35

## Mark 8-15

### The Story so Far

The reason the Kingdom had arrived was because the King was now here. Jesus demonstrated His authority as God's King through His miracles. He showed God's rule over Satan, sickness, sin and creation. Jesus taught in parables. These were challenging stories that communicated an important truth about the Kingdom of God. Jesus told various parables explaining that His Kingdom was here and that people should respond positively to it. Those who did not respond positively to God's King remained under His judgement.

### Objectives

- To understand the prediction, purpose and timing of Jesus' death.
- To see Jesus as the innocent rejected King who dies in the place of guilty people

### Connections

- Passover Meal and Lord's Supper
- Morning and evening sacrifices and Jesus' death
- Innocent dies in the place of the guilty

### Summary

**Jesus is rejected by His own people and sentenced to death. He is the innocent King who dies in the place of guilty rebellious people and pays the ransom for their sin.**

## A Rejected King

### **The prediction of Jesus' death (Mark 8:31; 9:30-31)**

Jesus performed many signs showing us that He is God. But we must ask ourselves the question, why did He come? And what is the purpose of Jesus' life? Will Jesus spend most of His life teaching disciples, then grow old and die? Is Jesus going to die like other religious leaders in history – old age, assassination or conspiracy? Or is there a purpose to Jesus' death? Jesus' death is no ordinary death. He predicts He is going to die and three days later rise from the dead. Jesus is a King with a mission.

### **A rejected King (Mark 3:6; 10:32-34; 12:12)**

From the beginning the Jewish religious leaders do not like Jesus. They are blind to His identity because they do not want Him as their King. Jesus exposes the sin of the Jewish people, which they have been hiding. They come to hate Him so much that they plot to kill Him. Jesus knows this and predicts that He is going to die by the betrayal and murder of His own people.

### **The purpose of Jesus' death (Mark 10:45)**

The title "Son of Man" refers to Jesus being a man, but also that He reveals God to man. Jesus has come to give His life as a ransom for guilty people. This word "ransom" is connected to the word "redemption" which we learnt about earlier in the Bible. In the Old Testament God redeemed His people out of Egypt. Now Jesus is going to give His life (die) as a payment for people, so God can buy them back out from punishment and into a relationship with Himself. Jesus' death is the ransom.

### **The timing of Jesus' death**

Jesus comes to Jerusalem on a Thursday, a day before the Jewish Passover celebrations. The Jewish people celebrated the Passover with a meal on the Thursday night at which they ate bread as a reminder of God's rescue from Egypt. On the Friday an animal would be killed at 9:00a.m, this was known as the morning sacrifice. An animal was also killed at 3:00p.m, this was known as the evening sacrifice. The Friday was called the Day of Preparation.

## **The Lord's Supper (Mark 14:12-26)**

On the Thursday night as Jesus and His followers celebrate the Passover meal, He announces that one of His 12 followers is going to betray Him. Judas then leaves the room quietly and goes to the chief priests to help in Jesus' arrest. Jesus gives the Passover meal a new meaning. The bread symbolises His body that would receive God's punishment, and the wine symbolises His blood that will be poured out in His death.

## **Jesus' arrest (Mark 14:32-50)**

After Jesus and His followers have eaten they go outside to a garden called "Gethsemane". Jesus is so burdened with the knowledge of receiving God's punishment for sinners that He asks God to remove it. But in the end He says, "Yet Father, not what I want, but what you want." Jesus is willing to obey His Father's plan of rescue, which involves Him being punished in the place of guilty people.

It is while Jesus is in the garden that Judas arrives with a large crowd of Roman soldiers to arrest Him. It is dark and therefore difficult to identify Jesus, so Judas goes up and kisses Jesus on the cheek, to show the soldiers who they are to arrest.

## **Jesus' trial (Mark 14:53-65)**

Jesus is put on trial late on Thursday by the Jewish religious authorities. They find Him guilty of blasphemy - claiming to be God. The punishment for this crime is death (Leviticus 24:16). But it is only the Romans who can give the death penalty since they are in charge of Israel at this time.

## **Jesus before Pilate (Mark 15:1-5)**

In the morning they take Jesus to Pilate, a Roman Governor. But Pilate finds no basis to charge Jesus with death. He even sends Jesus to King Herod who also finds Jesus innocent. Herod sends Jesus back to Pilate, who questions Him again. Three times Pilate finds Jesus innocent.

Pilate then has Jesus whipped and beaten so as to keep the Jews happy that He has received some punishment. Pilate hopes that when they see Jesus beaten and bleeding, they might be happy to let Him go. But when they see Jesus again they shout, "Crucify

him! Crucify him!” “Crucify” means to nail a person to a cross, this shape:



Three times Pilate announces Jesus to be innocent and three times the Jewish people shout, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

### **The innocent in place of the guilty (Mark 15:6-15)**

Pilate performs the yearly tradition of releasing a prisoner for the Jewish people. The Jews have a choice between two very different people:

#### **Innocent King Jesus or Guilty rebellious Barabbas**

They choose Barabbas to be released and so Pilate sentences Jesus to death by crucifixion. The innocent will die in place of the guilty. This is a shock to us because we know that guilty people should be punished, and not the innocent.

**Jesus the innocent King dies in the place of guilty rebellious people.**

### **Connections with the Old Testament**

However, in a sense this should not be a shock to us because this has been happening throughout the Bible. For centuries in the Old Testament God was teaching that because of His grace the innocent died in place of the guilty. Therefore we should not be surprised that Jesus the innocent King is dying in the place of guilty people. It has been God’s plan all along. And it is all because of God’s grace – God give us what we don’t deserve.



## **Think it through & discuss**

1. What is it that Jesus predicts?
2. What is the purpose of Jesus' death?
3. What is the connection between the timing of Jesus' death and the Passover meal?
4. What is the significance of Barabbas' release?
5. How is this connected to the Old Testament?