**Sunday, March 15, 2015 – New Heights Christian Church, Kent, WA – Micah Adamson**

**Mark 15–**Jesus' Gentile Trial and Execution (as the King of Israel and the Jews)

***Mark 15:2, 26(NIV84)****“Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate. “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied.The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

**Introduction:**

* We’ve having a Good Friday sermon on Palm Sunday since we are in Mark 15.
* We had a Palm Sunday sermon early, four chapters ago, when we were in Mark 11.
* On Good Friday, we plan to review the whole Passion Week narrative from Mark 11-15.
* In [Till We Have Faces](http://www.amazon.com/Till-We-Have-Faces-Retold/dp/0156904365/), C.S. Lewis tells a fictional story about a priest in a Greek temple for whom “the story and the worship were all one in his mind.” He thinks of his god being outcast at the time of the year he celebrates that event, and ruling during the time of that celebration.
* Let’s not forget that every Sunday is a celebration of Jesus’ resurrection even during lent and that Jesus won’t really spend this Saturday in the grave. Jesus is already risen and ruling from heaven!
* Mark is Peter’s story told as a Passion Week narrative with a long introduction.
  + Mark 1-10 = 3 Years of ministry (Learning that Jesus is the Christ)
  + Mark 11-16 = 8 Days of the passion week (Learning what it means that Jesus is the Christ)
* By Palm Sunday, Peter, the disciples, and even the crowd, had almost gotten who Jesus is. Even the religious leaders get who Jesus is claiming to be: The Christ/Messiah/Anointed One/Coming King.
  + They all expect a king who will conquer and rule (Ps. 2, Is. 9, Dn. 7, Zech. 12).
  + They don’t expect a king who will suffer and serve (Ps. 22, Is. 53, Dn. 9, Zech. 13).
* By the end of the day on the Tuesday after Palm Sunday, Jesus had challenged everyone’s ideas of what the Christ would be like so much that Judas decides cash in and betray Jesus.
* Last week we heard the story of the last Supper, Jesus’ arrest, and trial by the Jews from Mark 14.
* This week we will hear the story of Jesus’ trial and execution by the Romans from Mark 15.
* As usual, Mark and Peter focus on action and abbreviate by summarizing conversations, leaving out much direct dialogue that other gospel writers include (Mt. 27, Lk. 23, Jn. 18-19).
* Josephus gives a brief description of Pilate & Jews’ relationship ([Josephus, Thrones of Blood](http://www.amazon.com/Josephus-Thrones-Blood-Flavius/dp/1557482667/) pg. 60)
* The Jews rioted when Pilate became governor and put the Roman flags/shields with Caesar’s face on them in Jerusalem near/at the temple. Pilate removed them to end the riot instead of killing everyone.
* Pilate anchors Jesus to real history via Josephus and the [Apostle’s Creed](http://www.ccel.org/creeds/apostles.creed.html) and the [Nicene Creed](http://www.ccel.org/creeds/nicene.creed.html) since we affirm that Jesus suffered, not just mythically, but historically under Pontius Pilate.

**Body:**

* ***Mark 15:1 (NIV84) Jesus Before Pilate [1 of 4]*Jesus convicted as the King of the Jews**

***15*** *Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.*

* Mark 14 = The Jews have already found Jesus guilty and beat Jesus up a bit and mocked Him.
* But, now the Jewish leaders have to get their Roman overloads to agree to execute Jesus since they don’t have the right to carry out capital punishment. This is more than a little humiliating for them.
* The arrest notice for Jesus from the Sanhedrin records is found in the Mishna and calls for Jesus to be stoned, but the Jews decided to do this execution legally ([WHI](http://www.whitehorseinn.org/blog/entry/2013-show-archive/2013/05/19/whi-1154-history-christianity)).
* Mark 14:61-62 = The Jews found Jesus guilty of blasphemy for claiming to be the Christ, the Son of God, the I AM, and the Son of Man, but for the Roman trial, the charge will be changed to treason.
* The Jews objected to Jesus’ claim to be the Christ on religious grounds.
* The Romans will object to Jesus’ claim to be the Christ on political grounds.
* Led away = led silently – watch for it – likea sheep to the slaughter (Is. 53:7)
* ***Mark 15:2-5 (NIV84) Jesus Before Pilate[2 of 4]*Jesus convicted as the King of the Jews**

*2 “Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate.*

*“Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied.*

*3 The chief priests accused him of many things. 4 So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.”*

*5 But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.*

* Pilate doesn’t feel threatened by Jesus, even though He’s claiming to be a king.
* John 18 = Pilatemay have understand Jesus’ claim to be king as a spiritual claim since both Jesus and the Jewish leaders did eventually talk about the blasphemy charge from the first trial.
* Most of all Pilate is amazed that Jesus isn’t defending Himself, he’s never see that before!
* Just as in the first trial, Jesus speaks to the judge, not the false witnesses (Mark 14:61)
* The Jewish leaders look like they are bringing up all of the false accusations from Jesus’ Jewish trial here at His Roman trial even though the accusations couldn’t be proved.
* Luke 23 = Luke is the only one who includes the trip to Herod’s Palace as part of the trial.
* ***Mark 15:6-11 (NIV84) Jesus Before Pilate [3 of 4]*Jesus convicted as the King of the Jews**

*6 Now it was the custom at the Feast to release a prisoner whom the people requested. 7 A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. 8 The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.*

*9 “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, 10 knowing it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.*

* It’s unclear how the tradition of freeing someone at Passover got started. But, the Passover was a feast to commemorate the Jews getting their freedom from Egypt, so there’s some logic to it.
* The Jewish crowd is not introduced as a separate character than the Jewish leaders.
* The leaders are accusing Jesus of treason against Rome. Barabbas was found guilty of this crime.
* The crowd may have even been scared of Barabbas, it’s not clear who he murdered (Jew or Roman).
* Pilate consistently calls Jesus “the King of the Jews” to get on the Jewish leaders nerves.
* The Jewish leaders don’t want Jesus to be their leader.
* It’s not clear how long it took, but the Jewish leaders talked the crowd into asking for Barabbas.
* By making the choice between Jesus and Barabbas, the crowd is choosing how to resist Rome, by force with Barabbas, or by trusting God with Jesus who’s not leading a rebellion (Mk 14:48).
* It looks like Barabbas is more the kind of leader they were looking for in a “Christ” than Jesus was.
* It’s a mystery how the crowd of Palm Sunday celebrated Jesus’ kingdom, now decides to kill Him.
* Remember what Jesus has done since Sunday:
* Mark 11: Jesus cleared the temple to make it easier for gentiles (Romans) to get to God.
* Mark 12: Jesus talked bad about the Jewish leadersand predicted the loss of the vineyard to others.
* Mark 13: Jesus even predicted the fall of the temple (false accusers even made it out to be a threat).
* This was enough to make Judas decide to betray Jesus, and it looks like the crowd agrees.
* They don’t want this kind of a king. They wanted someone leading a rebellion, not a loving sacrifice.
* ***Mark 15:12-15 (NIV84) Jesus Before Pilate [4 of 4]*Jesus convicted as the King of the Jews**

*12 “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.*

*13 “Crucify him!” they shouted.*

*14 “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.*

*But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”*

*15 Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.*

* Acts 3:13 = Peter says that the crowd disowned Jesus before Pilate who had decided to let Him go.
* Matthew 27 = Pilate wants to satisfy the crowd since they are starting to riot (burn things?)
* This time false accusations don’t workto get a guilty verdict, so they shout the sentence they want.
* Pilatereminds the Jewish crowd and leaders that they are the ones who are calling Jesus’ their king.
* Pilatewins a minor battle over the Jews while losing the war to keep Jesus alive. Pilate makes the Jews acknowledge Jesus as their king in the process of giving the Jews permission to kill Jesus.
* John 19 = The same Jews who didn’t want to acknowledge Pilate or Caesar’s right to rule over them as king, have just conceded the point by asking to kill their own king under Pilate’s authority.
* Pilate can now tell the story to Jews and Romans alike that Jesus really was attempting to make Himself King and take over Jerusalem, and the Jews turned Jesus over for a Roman execution.
* Jews had a 39 lashing limit to flogging (Dt. 25:2), but Romans had no limit.
* Jim Caviezel tells the story of receiving on lash during the filming of the Passion of the Christ and growing in respect for Jesus, since Jesus never cursed His murderers even in His heart.
* They chose Caesar as king over their Messiah, and Barabbas went free in Jesus’ place.
* ***Mark 15:16-20 (NIV84) The Soldiers Mock Jesus*Jesus mocked as the King of the Jews**

*16 The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. 17 They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. 18 And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” 19 Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. 20 And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.*

* Following His Roman conviction, Jesus is mocked and beaten by the soldiers, just like at His Jewish conviction. This makes two beatings and a floggingtoday. No wonder He can’t carry the cross.
* Thorns = More different thorn plants per square mile in Palestine than almost anywhere (Kistmaker)
* Genesis 3 = Thorns, not only hurt, they are part of the curse of sin, made into a crown.
* ***Mark 15:21-24 (NIV84) The Crucifixion[1 of 2]*Jesus killed as the King of the Jews**

*21 A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. 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.*

* 10 Commandments = Jesus is blasphemed, robbed, killed, false witnesses, coveting/jealousy
* Simon of Cyrene = probably traveled from Africa, staying outside Jerusalem during the Passover
* Cyrene = At Pentecost (Ac. 2),Had Synagogue in Jerusalem (Ac. 6), 1st missionaries to gentiles (Ac. 11), Teachers with Paul and Barnabbas in Antioch (Ac. 13) Simeon = Simon?, Rufus (Rm. 16)
* Wine with Myrrh = Soldiers being mean? Soldiers being nice? Someone else put pain killer in it?
* Ps. 22:18 = cast lots for my cloths
* ***Mark 15:25-32 (NIV84) The Crucifixion [2 of 2]*Jesus killed as the King of the Jews**

*25 It was the third hour when they crucified him. 26 The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the jews. 27 They crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left. 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 Christ, 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.*

* Mark 15 = Jesus crucified the 3rd hour vs. John 19 = Jesus condemned about the 6th hour.
* Mark counts hours from sunrise (9am), John counts hours from midnight (6am).
* All four gospels summarize/translated the wording of the sign slightly differently.
* Jesus was executed for being the king of Israel
* Christ = King of Israel
* Groups that mocked Jesus = Soldiers, passers by, Jewish leaders, robbers
* Mt. 27 = Soldiers had a change of heart, Lk. 23 = Robber had a change of heart
* Robber = Robber and/or Rebel = political crimes like Barabbas?
* Say they will believe if Jesus comes down of the cross (Lk. 16, Mt. 28)
* Passers by = know the false accusation that Jesus will destroy the temple and rebuild it
* John 2:19 = Jesus said if they destroyed this temple [His body] He would rebuilt it in three days
* Jesus never threatened to destroy the temple, but He did warn that the temple would be destroyed
* Jesus also claimed that He was the true temple that others would destroy (and they did)
* D.A. Carson = Truth in Irony: Jesus can’t save Himself and us at the same time.
* ***Mark 15:33-36 (NIV84) The Death of Jesus[1 of 2]*Jesus died as the Son of God**

*33 At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. 34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”—which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*

*35 When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”*

*36 One man ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.*

* Darkness = may have included an eclipse and/or a storm, or supernatural darkness (Ex 10)
* Darkness = Hell = 2 Peter 2:17b “Blackest darkness is reserved for them.” (Mt. 8, 22, 25)
* Eclipse of God’s face shining in blessing
* ***Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV84)The Priestly Blessing*Grace from God’s face**

*24The LORD* ***bless*** *you and* ***keep*** *you;*

*25 the LORD make his* ***face shine*** *upon you and be* ***gracious*** *to you;*

*26 the LORD turn his* ***face toward*** *you and give you* ***peace****.*

* [Apostle’s Creed](http://www.ccel.org/creeds/apostles.creed.html)= Descended into hell/judgement (before his death on the cross)
* Descended into death/hades/the place of the dead = really went to Sheol the place of the dead containing paradise and hell (Lk. 16)
* Did God really forsake Jesus? How is that even possible as the Trinity?
* Jesus experienced the complete absence of God’s favor, not the complete absence of God’s presence
* 1 Peter 3:18 = “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.”
* Is Jesus quoting scripture (saying the reference, Psalm 22) praying for real (feels forsaken), or both?
* R.C. Sproul = Doesn’t think Jesus is in a scripture quoting mood, but Jesus quoted scripture at his trials, if you know the Bible, suffering is a great time to quote it.
* Psalm 22:1, 15,18, 24 = Forsaken, thirsty, robbed of robe, God did not ultimately hide His face.
* My God, My God = Only time I can find that Jesus addresses God in prayer not as “Father”
* Eloi, Eloi = Elijah, Elijah = probably deliberately mishearing as part of the mocking
* Drink = Part of the mocking.
* Wine vinegar = Drink? Cleaning supply? Who drinks vinegar? Where did the sponge come from?
* ***Mark 15:33-36 (NIV84) The Death of Jesus [2 of 2]*Jesus died as the Son of God**

*37 With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.*

*38 The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. 39 And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”*

*40 Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. 41 In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.*

* Loud cry = Mt 27, Mk 15? Father, into your hands I commit my spirit (Lk 23)? It is finished (Jn 20)?
* Mark’s point seems to be that Jesus cried out to show that He died on purpose.
* Women cared for Jesus = at least two moms of Jesus’ disciples = brave
* Salome (Mk. 15) = the mother of Zebedee’s sons (Mt. 27) = Jesus’ mother’s sister (Jn. 19)?
* Curtain ripped = Way to God opened, Temple beginning to fall apart/no longer necessary
* Hebrews 10:19-22 = Jesus’ blood sprinkled& broken body = open God’s presence to us
* Son of God = Christ = King = Verdict from Jesus first trial (same centurion along all day long?)
* This centurion changed his mind about Jesus from mocking to revering.
* ***Mark 15:42-47 (NIV84) The Burial of Jesus*Jesus buried as a Jewish dignitary**

*42 It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, 43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. 44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. 45 When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. 46 So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.*

* Evening approached on Preparation day = 3pm Friday? Bodies can’t be hung overnight (Dt. 21:23)
* Waiting for the kingdom of God = Believed Jesus was the Christ/coming king?
* Arimathea = Ramah = Samuel’s town 1 Sam. 1:1 = close to Jerusalem (Lk. 23:51)
* Mt. 27 = Rich
* Joseph = prominent member of the council = knows Pilate?
* Knows Jesus is dead = was at the cross?
* Bold = willing to risk being associated with Jesus
* Strips of linen cloth = bought = hurry
* Stone = Final burial, don’t expect Jesus to come out
* Retraction: Last week I said that Mary of Bethany in Mark 14 was the only one who got to anoint Jesus body for burial, but John 20 says that there was one other person who did too: Nicodemus who helped Joseph with the linen.
* At least two women see where Jesus body is laid and plan to come back to anoint Jesus body on Sunday, but they will never get the chance because Jesus will rise first!

**Conclusion:**

* Hook: You’re missing it Peter!
  + Many people witnessed the most important moment in all of human history and missed it.
  + Some got it right at the end (soldiers and robbers) others got it later (disciples, crowd)
  + Some missed it (leaders). Don’t you miss it!
* Jesus died as the Christ/Son of God/King of the Jews to save you from your sin if you trust in Him and enter God’s presence through Jesus shed blood and broken body.
* Don’t live like Jesus ceased to exist when He died or went back to heaven, God vindicated Him!
* Benediction = May God’s grace and face shine on you since Jesus took your punishment at the cross.