

# DISCUSSION IDEAS THE DARKNESS

Mark 15:33-47

June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: JESUS' HUMANITY.**

Given: We humans have all rebelled against God and have all been condemned.

Look at John 3:18 and Romans 5:12.

How could God forgive sin and cleanse the defiled universe?

Sin can not exist in the presence of God any more that you can survive standing next to a nuclear blast!

How could God be true to His own character, and yet not doom us all to eternal destruction?

Compare Romans 5:17 with Lev. 17:11.

How could God provide a blood (death) sacrifice that would not just be symbolic, but would actually pay the penalty for sin?

Discuss how Jesus' taking on a human body and nature answers that question.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: THE AWFUL PRICE.**

We have seen throughout Mark that Jesus was in control and fully planned to pay the terrible price for our sins, but....

Read through Mark 15:33-39 imagining yourself there as a witness.

Compare Isaiah 53:3-6.

Discuss this description:

*"Wave after wave of the world's sin was poured over Christ's sinless soul. Again and again during those three hours his soul recoiled and convulsed as all the lies of civilization, the murders of a thousand "Killing Fields", the whorings of the world's armies, and the noxious brew of hatreds, jealousies, and pride were poured on his purity. Finally he became a curse:*

*Galatians 3:13 (ESV)*

*<sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—*

*"In the darkness Jesus bore it all in silence. Not a word came from his lips. Can you see him writhing like a serpent in the gloom (see John 3:14, 15)?"<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> R. Kent Hughes, *Mark: Jesus, Servant and Savior*, vol. 2, Preaching the Word (Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1989), 206–208.

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Discuss the details of the following verses:

1 Peter 2:24 (ESV): <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

And:

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV): <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

*Or as The Living Bible puts it:*

*For God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us!*

*2 Corinthians 5:21 (LB)*

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: FORSAKEN???**

Discuss Jesus' cry, recorded in Mark 15:34.

Think about the Eternal Creator God actually experiencing DEATH through His human body and soul.

Remember: Death is separation from God.

How could God forgive us without this horrible experience?

How important is it that we not take this forgiveness for granted?

Discuss the first part of 1 Peter 2:24.

Review the second part of 1 Peter 2:24, "That we might...." what?

Do we take that to heart?

Some folks mistakenly apply the last sentence to physical healing.

Note that this states that we have been healed.

Healing is stated as a past event, done once, and completed.

How does the context shed light on the meaning of this statement?

Compare Hebrews 10:14. What room does this statement leave for us to earn any part of our forgiveness?

♦ **FOR MEDITATION: AT HOME THIS WEEK, MEDITATE ON:**

The fact that God darkened the mid-day light in Mark 15:33-34.

The significance of the Temple Curtain in Mark 15:37-38.

How does Hebrews 10:19-25 expand on this event?

How does this affect anything you have been taught in the past about needing a priest between yourself and God?

On whose authority do you have direct access to God?

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**How can we keep the common statement "In the Name of Jesus" from becoming a dead ritual in our own lives?**

**The Centurion's response in Mark 15:73-39.**

*(I hope I meet him in Heaven!)*

**The faithfulness of the women who cared about Jesus, even though His disciples had fled. Mark 15:40-41**

**The Isaiah 53:9 prophecy that was fulfilled in Mark 15:42-47.**

**NOW: Dwell on how you should live, in view of all God did for us!**

♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

**Ask God to keep us focused on His priorities.**

**Ask Him to help us to have unshakable confidence in His faithfulness.**

**Ask Him to help us sort out Truth from distorted teachings and feelings.**

**Ask Him to help us live out His agape LOVE, both for our fellow believers, and for those who reject or ignore Him.**

**Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there.**

**Continue to pray for the Pearsons as they adjust to caring for John's mother.**

**Pray too for wisdom and peace and health as they continue to find various ways to serve Jesus.**

**Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Baranganon Island.**

**Pray for encouragement for Benders and Ingvoidstads. Ask God for protection from injuries and from sickness.**

**Pray for the men who are growing in Christ and taking on greater responsibilities on Baranganon Island.**

**Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!**

**Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.**