Jesus Revealed: When Jesus Revealed Himself and Why it Matters

8.11.19

Message 64

Mark 14:43–15:32 (CSB)

**JUDAS’S BETRAYAL OF JESUS**

**43**While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, suddenly arrived. With him was a mob, with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. **44**His betrayer had given them a signal. “The one I kiss,” he said, “he’s the one; arrest him and take him away under guard.” **45**So when he came, immediately he went up to Jesus and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. **46**They took hold of him and arrested him. **47**One of those who stood by drew his sword, struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his ear.

**48**Jesus said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs, as if I were a criminal, to capture me? **49**Every day I was among you, teaching in the temple, and you didn’t arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.”

**50**Then they all deserted him and ran away. **51**Now a certain young man, wearing nothing but a linen cloth, was following him. They caught hold of him, **52**but he left the linen cloth behind and ran away naked.

**JESUS FACES THE SANHEDRIN**

**53**They led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes assembled. **54**Peter followed him at a distance, right into the high priest’s courtyard. He was sitting with the servants,, warming himself by the fire.

**55**The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they could not find any. **56**For many were giving false testimony against him, and the testimonies did not agree. **57**Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, stating, **58**“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands, and in three days I will build another not made by hands.’ ” **59**Yet their testimony did not agree even on this.

**60**Then the high priest stood up before them all and questioned Jesus, “Don’t you have an answer to what these men are testifying against you?” **61**But he kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest questioned him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

**62**“I am,” said Jesus, “and you will see **the Son of Man** **seated at the right hand** of Power and **coming with the clouds** **of heaven**.”,

**63**Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? **64**You have heard the blasphemy. What is your decision?” They all condemned him as deserving death.

**65**Then some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to beat him, saying, “Prophesy!” The temple servants also took him and slapped him.

**PETER DENIES HIS LORD**

**66**While Peter was in the courtyard below, one of the high priest’s maidservants came. **67**When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.”

**68**But he denied it: “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about.” Then he went out to the entryway, and a rooster crowed.

**69**When the maidservant saw him again, she began to tell those standing nearby, “This man is one of them.”

**70**But again he denied it. After a little while those standing there said to Peter again, “You certainly are one of them, since you’re also a Galilean.”,

**71**Then he started to curse and swear, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about!”

**72**Immediately a rooster crowed a second time, and Peter remembered when Jesus had spoken the word to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

**JESUS FACES PILATE**

**15**As soon as it was morning, having held a meeting with the elders, scribes, and the whole Sanhedrin, the chief priests tied Jesus up, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.

**2**So Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

He answered him, “You say so.”

**3**And the chief priests accused him of many things. **4**Pilate questioned him again, “Aren’t you going to answer? Look how many things they are accusing you of!” **5**But Jesus still did not answer, and so Pilate was amazed.

**JESUS OR BARABBAS**

**6**At the festival Pilate used to release for the people a prisoner whom they requested. **7**There was one named Barabbas, who was in prison with rebels who had committed murder during the rebellion. **8**The crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do for them as was his custom. **9**Pilate answered them, “Do you want me to release the King of the Jews for you?” **10**For he knew it was because of envy that the chief priests had handed him over. **11**But the chief priests stirred up the crowd so that he would release Barabbas to them instead. **12**Pilate asked them again, “Then what do you want me to do with the one you call the King of the Jews?”

**13**Again they shouted, “Crucify him!”

**14**Pilate said to them, “Why? What has he done wrong?”

But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!”

**15**Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them; and after having Jesus flogged, he handed him over to be crucified.

**MOCKED BY THE MILITARY**

**16**The soldiers led him away into the palace (that is, the governor’s residence) and called the whole company together. **17**They dressed him in a purple robe, twisted together a crown of thorns, and put it on him. **18**And they began to salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” **19**They were hitting him on the head with a stick and spitting on him. Getting down on their knees, they were paying him homage. **20**After they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple robe and put his clothes on him.

**CRUCIFIED BETWEEN TWO CRIMINALS**

They led him out to crucify him. **21**They forced a man coming in from the country, who was passing by, to carry Jesus’s cross. He was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

**22**They brought Jesus to the place called *Golgotha* (which means Place of the Skull). **23**They tried to give him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.

**24**Then they crucified him and divided his clothes, casting lots for them to decide what each would get. **25**Now it was nine in the morning when they crucified him. **26**The inscription of the charge written against him was: The King of the Jews. **27**They crucified two criminals, with him, one on his right and one on his left.

**29**Those who passed by were yelling insults at him, shaking their heads, and saying, “Ha! The one who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, **30**save yourself by coming down from the cross!” **31**In the same way, the chief priests with the scribes were mocking him among themselves and saying, “He saved others, but he cannot save himself! **32**Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, so that we may see and believe.” Even those who were crucified with him taunted him.

# Introduction

 A. I know that was a lot of verses.

1. The reason why I wanted to read this whole section is to help us see the big picture.

2. There were many people surrounding Jesus deserving of punishment and even death.

a. Peter and the other disciples who betrayed their friend during his time of need deserved some punishment.

b. The scribes and religious leaders definitely deserved to be punished because they were breaking their own laws by the way they conducted their trial in order to punish an innocent man.

c. Pilate is definitely not a victim:

 1. He was historically cruel to the Jewish people.

2. So he allows Jesus’ crucifixion out of political expediency.

d. Barabbas and the other two criminals were known murderers and insurrectionists who deserved to die.

e. The Roman soldiers, although they acted within their authority by beating and mocking Jesus, took great pleasure in their actions.

 B. But none of their deaths would have brought salvation.

1. Sure, in the case of Barabbas and a few others, the world would have been rid of some trouble-makers a little earlier.

2. But their deaths would not have brought redemption.

3. Their deaths would not have fulfilled God’s plan and purpose.

4. But Jesus’ death would.

C. This morning, I want to share with you a message entitled: Jesus Revealed: When Jesus revealed himself and why it matters.

# 1. Timing is Everything

A. We have all heard the phrase, “Timing is Everything”.

 1. Timing is important in life.

 2. Timing is important in sports.

 3. Timing Is important in relationships.

B. This is especially true in the Gospels.

1. Understanding timing and context has been crucial for our studies in Mark.

2. When something is said or done makes all of the difference especially as we read the Gospels.

 3. The countdown of Jesus’ life is about to run out.

C. Mark 14:43 through Mark 15:33 is a blur of activity.

 1. Jesus is arrested,

a. Wrongly tried and found guilty of blasphemy by His own people,

b. Tried by the Romans and found not-guilty,

c. Betrayed, abandoned, and beaten.

d. The hours leading up to the first nails driven into Jesus’ wrist are Indeed terrible hours.

 2. Mark’s perspective on the situation is unique:

a. Mark focuses a lot of attention on the people around Jesus and their actions.

b. Peter’s betrayal, Pilate’s indecision, Barabbas’ unexpected freedom, the religious leaders’ bloodthirst, the Roman soldiers’ antagonism.

c. Through all of this Mark records only 6 sentences from Jesus’ mouth in these verses.

 d. Jesus literally let everyone else do all of the talking.

3. But one sentence in the midst of all the frantic activity is the most powerful sentence in Mark.

4. And that is what I have chosen to focus upon today.

# 2. Mark 14:62 is the first time in Mark that Jesus confesses He is the Son of God.

Mark 14:61–62 (CSB)

**61**But he kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest questioned him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

**62**“I am,” said Jesus, “and you will see **the Son of Man** **seated at the right hand** of Power and **coming with the clouds** **of heaven**.”,

A. We have known that Jesus was the Son of God for a long time.

 1. Others have recognized Jesus as Messiah along the way.

 2. The blind man confessed Jesus to be the Messiah.

 3. Peter said that Jesus was “The Christ, the Son of the Living God”.

4. As we have read Mark, we have known for a long-time who Jesus is.

 B. But Jesus has been very careful in declaring who He was.

1. In fact, Jesus has hidden his identity and have told others to do the same.

2. The hiding of Jesus’ full identity until the right time is called the “Messianic Secret”.

C. Jesus had withheld His full identity because the expectations of others were wrong.

 1. The city was still expecting a Messiah to overthrow Rome.

2. The city was still expecting for the Messiah to establish God’s throne in Jerusalem and judge the nations.

3. The city was expecting for the Messiah to become King in the midst of an incredible demonstration of power.

D. Notice the context of when Jesus revealed His identity.

 1. Jesus was standing before the high priest, but not in the Temple.

 2. Jesus had been betrayed by one of his closest followers.

 3. Jesus had been wrongfully arrested and roughly handled.

4. Soon, Jesus would be beaten, slapped, spit upon and mocked by the very men who were the guardians of Judaism.

E. In other words, Jesus revealed his full identity in a time of pain and suffering.

 1. He wasn’t on a huge stage in front of adoring fans.

 2. He wasn’t kicking the Emperor out of his seat.

 3. He wasn’t sentencing His enemies to prison or death.

4. Instead, Jesus announces that He was the Son of God in a time and place full of pain and suffering.

F. Jesus is accused of blasphemy because no on in the room believed that the Son of God would suffer.

1. Yet Isaiah had prophesied time and again that the Lord’s Servant would suffer.

 2. Surely, Isaiah was mistaken?

 3. Surely, the Son of God couldn’t be beaten, slapped, and crucified?

4. The actions of the religious leaders can be summarized like this: If this is what the Son of God looks like, we don’t want Him.

# 3. Yet, in the midst of imminent suffering Jesus proclaims future power.

 A. Jesus might not have looked like the conquering Son of God.

 1. But His response made it clear He was.

2. “You shall see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of power coming with all of heaven.”

 3. Jesus made it clear to the religious elite that He would return.

4. And when He did, He wouldn’t be a victim or martyr but a conqueror.

 B. Jesus’ present suffering would result in a future demonstration of power.

1. Just because Jesus let them hurt and humiliate Him now didn’t mean they would be able to do that forever.

2. Jesus knew that there would come a day when He would set everything right in the world.

 a. Every injustice will be rectified.

 b. Every evil action atoned.

 c. Every sinner punished and saint exalted.

d. Jesus knew a day was coming when His people would no longer feel the hurts, pains, and sorrows of sin anymore.

 e. No more tears that dim the eyes.

 f. No more sickness and pain.

3. What no one in the room could realize that day was that Jesus was experiencing pain and sorrow so that, someday, we could experience the joy of victory.

 C. For that to happen, Jesus had to die.

 1. Not Barabbas.

 2. Not Peter.

 3. Not Judas.

 4. Jesus had to die to prepare the way for us to live.

 D. So the High Priest declared that “Jesus deserved to die”.

 1. No, Jesus didn’t deserve it, we did.

2. Jesus experienced the cost of sins that He didn’t commit so we could experience victory that we hadn’t won.

3. There was an old song that said,

a. “He paid a debt He did not owe, I owed a debt I could not pay I needed someone, to wash my sins away.”

b. When we were saved, we were not at our best.

c. Yet, that is when Jesus found us and our lives were never the same.

# 4. Some of our greatest experiences with Jesus happen when we are at our lowest.

 A. Think back through me with some of the miracles in Mark.

 1. Almost all of the miracles have something in common:

 2. The people were not at their best when they found Jesus.

 a. They were hurt, paralyzed, demon possessed, and lost.

 b. They were suffering, broken and in need.

3. It was in their lowly position that Jesus found them and changed their lives.

 B. Our present sufferings do not limit God’s power.

1. In fact, the Apostle Paul compared our present sufferings with God’s future glory.

2. Romans 8:18*. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.*

3. In our world, suffering is not redeemable.

a. We look for good to come out of pain and suffering but rarely does it seem to happen.

b. But in God’s economy, suffering is redeemable and creates an opportunity for a revelation of Jesus.

# 5. We are in desperate need of a revelation of Jesus.

A. Mass shootings, famines, cancer, terrorism, and suicide are on the news every day.

 1. Not just the global news but the local news.

 2. Everywhere we look, we see our fallenness and sinfulness.

3. Just like it looked in the hours of the crucifixion, it looks like Jesus has lost his power.

4. However, the presence of suffering and sin in this world does not mean that Jesus is absent.

B. I propose that our present sufferings are an amazing time for us to see Jesus show up!

 1. Some of us this morning are battling.

 a. Maybe you are battling an illness.

 b. Maybe you are fighting for the survival of a relationship.

 c. Maybe you are fighting for your family or your future.

2. You walked into church this morning feeling the weight of it all upon you.

 a. You wondered if it was worth it.

b. This morning, my prayer for you is that you will experience Jesus in an amazing way.

 c. Jesus reveals Himself in our worst times.

 3. Look at the people in today’s passages:

a. Jesus revealed himself to Peter when Peter was in the process of denying Him.

 b. Barabbas met Jesus when he was destined to be crucified.

c. The criminals on the cross met Jesus on their last day on Earth.

d. The Roman Centurion who checked to see if Jesus was dead, proclaimed “Truly this was the Son of God”

4. IF Jesus will show up for people like this, He most certainly will do the same for us.

Closing:

Today we close very simply: If you are in need of Jesus today, in whatever capacity, here in just a moment we are going to pray.

I’m going to pray like this: Jesus, will you reveal yourself to me in the middle of my pain, the middle of my depression and anxiety, the middle of my divorce, the middle of my back pain, the middle of my losing my job. Will you reveal yourself today and remind me of your power!