

Mark 15:1-15

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Preacher: Kyle Webb

[0 : 00] It's March 15th and it's just a mere coincidence that we're in Mark 15. We're starting Mark 15 on March 15th. And that coincidence means nothing for us this morning except that it was a good reminder of which passage I'd be teaching when Nathan told me several weeks ago that I'd be doing this on March 15th.

So if you have a copy of God's Word, turn with me there to Mark chapter 15. It's in this particular portion of Scripture that we meet a fascinating man by the name of Pontius Pilate.

He's probably known by most, even if you haven't been or grown up in church. His name is usually at least recognizable, usually for his infamy rather than his fame.

Many equate him with names like Judas, like Herod, like Annas and Caiaphas. All the other evil characters in Scripture involved in the unparalleled drama that unfolds around the cross, around what leads up to Jesus' crucifixion.

And if we look from a simple human standpoint, these men are all co-conspirators in what ultimately leads Jesus to his death. But from a divine perspective, however, God is the true power and the true influence who leads his Son to the cross.

[1 : 21] And so it's important for us, before we read this, that we come to an understanding that there's not a moment in this passage that we're about to read that God is not in control. And for that matter, there's not a moment in the rest of this chapter as we're going to see Jesus being nailed to a cross that God is not in control.

And if your life seems like it's out of control this morning, then please know this. God is in control. He always has been and He always will be.

This was His plan all along, what we're about to read. And it's very important for us to understand this if we are to rightly understand our salvation and the love that God has for us.

Beginning in verse 1, chapter 15. As soon as it was morning, the chief priest held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council.

They bound Jesus and led Him away and delivered Him over to Pilate. And Pilate asked Him, Are you the King of the Jews? And He answered him, You have said so.

[2 : 28] And the chief priest accused Him of many things. And Pilate again asked Him, Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you. In verse 5, But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the feast, He used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. And he answered them saying, Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews? For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priest had delivered him up.

Verse 11, But the chief priest stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. And Pilate again said to them, Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews? And they cried out again, Crucify Him! And Pilate said to them, Why? What evil has he done? But they shouted all the more, Crucify Him!

[3 : 36] And so Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, Release for them Barabbas. And having scourged Jesus, He delivered Him to be crucified. Let's pray together.

Heavenly Father, Heavenly Father, We are so grateful For this moment in history.

Though tragic to read, Though difficult to read, We thank you, Father, For this moment in history, Because we know it ultimately led you To the sacrifice That leads us to salvation.

And that's something we'll be forever grateful for. We know that you demonstrated your love In the biggest kind of way That you possibly could in this moment.

So Father, I pray that Your Word this morning Would reach deeply into our hearts. That your Spirit would meet with us And change our hearts this morning As we take a look More in detail at Mark chapter 15.

[4 : 41] We pray this in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen. Before we dive into this passage, Let's start with a quick review So that we can kind of refresh our memories On where we are.

It's the Passover week in Jerusalem. We've kind of been talking about this week For several weeks now. It seems like a couple months now even. Because Mark decides to zoom in To kind of really focus a large part of his writing On this one week, the Passover week That leads up to Jesus' death. The Jewish leaders who made up the Sanhedrin, They want Jesus dead. The Sanhedrin is essentially The Jewish Supreme Court in that day For lack of better terms.

That's the best way that we can really think about it. They dealt in legal matters Oftentimes for the Jewish population. Ultimately, Rome has authority In this situation And in their cultural context. Rome is occupying them. And so therefore they have authority There in Judea. But the Sanhedrin Dealt in legal matters For the Jews and things of the temple.

[5 : 47] There are 71 total of them Including the high priests. So they decided the first step To having Jesus crucified Or somehow terminated Was that they needed to arrest Jesus.

But they don't want to do this in daylight Because they're afraid of the followers of Jesus Rising up against them And it would make them even less popular Than they already were becoming Under Jesus' time, his ministry Here on earth.

So Jesus at this point Has amassed many, many followers Sometimes thousands of people at a time Walking around with him Following him And he's teaching them As he goes everywhere. And so they're afraid to arrest him In the full view Of the swelling populace That is coming into Jerusalem For the Passover. What made things more complicated for them Is that they didn't know How to capture him at night Because they didn't know Where he would be Or if he had followers That would be there with them To protect him.

Judas Iscariot, however Is the answer to their dilemma. He negotiated a price Of 30 pieces of silver And it's on Thursday night As Jesus is meeting In the upper room With the 12 disciples That Jesus calls Judas out on And he says Go do what you're going to do And do it quickly.

[7 : 08] And so it happened In the Garden of Gethsemane While Jesus is praying And pleading with the remaining 11 To stay awake Because something's coming That Judas leads A Roman cohort Along with temple officials To come and to arrest Jesus.

They take him straight Into the high priest quarters First to Annas And then to Caiaphas. There's a mock trial Before Annas They're looking for some crime Against Rome That they can charge him with That they can bring him Before the Roman authorities They couldn't find one So Annas gives up On that endeavor And passes Jesus off To his son-in-law Caiaphas Before Caiaphas False witnesses are bribed And their testimony Is simply incoherent.

They can't piece together A good testimony To try to frame Jesus For anything. They couldn't come up With anything that made sense So they finally left To accuse They were left to accuse Jesus of blasphemy Because he said That he was the son of God Thereby claiming To be a deity.

And all this happens All these trials Happen on the same night That Jesus was arrested. Happens very quickly. Then comes sunrise And the Sanhedrin know That under Jewish law They have to hold A trial in daylight So trying to maintain Some sort of legality In the situation They know that they have to hold Some sort of trial In daylight Still not a fair So it's not a real fair trial But they hold it Yet another mock trial For him in the morning.

And then the Jewish part Is done. But they must bring him To trial before the Romans. Why would they do this? They've already declared That he's guilty. They already have enough To possibly have him arrested On the spot right there.

[8 : 54] Why do they go To the Romans To hold another trial? John records The specific answer In John chapter 18 Verse 31 They said We are not permitted To put anyone to death.

The Jews It seems for good reason Weren't permitted To invoke the death penalty. Rome had to invoke The death penalty And Rome had to perform The execution.

So we learn quickly here That it wasn't enough For them to just arrest And imprison Jesus. They want him dead. And this is where we pick up In chapter 15 Verse 1 As soon as it was born The chief priest Held a consultation With the elders And scribes And the whole council.

It would appear By the way That the whole council Is unanimous in this. They're all committed To Jesus' death. So they bind Jesus And take him off the pilot. On the secondary note here It's that this time If we're kind of Following the timeline I'm going to try to Piece together As much of the timeline As we can According to the other Gospel accounts as well.

It's around this time That Judas begins To feel remorse. He goes and takes The silver that he Bargained to turn Jesus in And he goes into The presence of the Sanhedrin Drops the silver Down on the floor And says I betrayed Innocent blood And then he runs off To hang himself.

[10:17] So they bound Jesus And led him away And delivered him Over to Pilate. And they can't just let him Just give him over to Pilate. They have to have Some sort of reason For him to be arrested And executed Under Roman law.

And so they make Three accusations. We don't get this In our particular text This morning. We get this from Luke chapter 23 Verse 2. The three accusations Are really interesting. First accusation They present Before Pilate Is that he's Perverting our nation.

Number two He's forbidding To pay taxes. And number three He's claiming To be a king. All faults All lies He didn't pervert The nation They did.

He did not Forbid to pay taxes He said Give to Caesar What is Caesar's. And while Yes he claimed To be a king His domain Was not of this earth.

They lied But that was Nothing new To these people. They were known To lie. And when we come back To Mark chapter 15 And Pilate asked him Are you the king Of the Jews?

[11:29] He ignored The first accusation That they brought Before him That That he perverted The nation. He ignored the second. You would think That he would at least Care about the second one Right? That he was telling people Not to pay their taxes.

And he went straight To the third accusation Because that's probably What fascinated him The most. Are you The king of the Jews? You can almost Picture him saying This sarcastically Because there's Nothing here That makes Jesus Look royal Or kingly.

He's just been Beaten and spat upon By the Sanhedrin. He's being rejected And turned into Pilate By the very same people Who are supposed to be Under his kingly rule.

He doesn't look Much like a king. And he Jesus Answered him Sood let go. The ESV gets it close You have said so.

And the reality is That he is a king. But not in the way That he The way that they Had thought. The way that they Were thinking he was. His kingdom Was one that they Could not understand For lack of understanding Of who Jesus was And what he was About to do.

[12:50] But Paul in Colossians 1 It's amazing That Nathan Opened up with this. We're going to Read it again Just because I had it in here. Nathan and I Did not plan this By the way. This is Completely God's sovereignty.

He has delivered us From the domain Of darkness And transferred us Into the kingdom Of his beloved son In whom we have Redemption The forgiveness Of sins For by him All things were Created in heaven And on earth Visible and invisible Whether thrones Or dominions Or rulers Or authorities All things were Created through him And for him.

His kingly rule Supersedes all Other kingdoms. His kingship Is above All other kings. And so I assure you Brothers and sisters In case there was Ever any question In your heart Jesus Is a king And he now Reigns in the hearts Of his people.

He now reigns In his church That was established Upon his life His death And his resurrection. He is the only one Who can take A sinful vessel Like the one Who stands before you Right now And make it pure And holy.

And that's why What we're About to read Had to happen. This Had to happen For Jesus To make his Final work Upon the cross This had to happen.

[14:19] And the chief Priest Accused him Of many things. And Paul Again asked him Have you No answer To make? See how many Charges they bring Against you.

He was accused Of all kinds Of things. And he makes No defense. There's a part Of me That every time I read this passage I just want to Just like Grab Jesus By the shoulder And say Say something. Please Just defend Yourself now. Every time I read this passage You see it Pictured in movies.

Every time I see A picture in a movie I think the same thing. Why are you Not defending yourself? Every other time In scripture When somebody Comes up to him And asks him Leading questions Or misleading questions And trying to Stump him He has this Brilliant answer This wisdom Full

answer To give them Whether it's Asking them A question That makes them Walk away Thinking about The way that They had Questioned Jesus At some level He always Made them Walk away Stumped Unable to Answer his Question Unable to Figure out A way To stump Him Back He always Sent them Walking away You never Saw anybody In scripture As they Approached Jesus And tried to Trip him up Walk away Saying man I showed him He always Had a response For them And so Why does he Not respond In this One moment Where it Truly matters Why does he Not try to Redeem himself And the

Answer is Ultimately It's because Jesus was Not the one Who needed Redemption It was us That needed Redemption And so Jesus Remains Silent So that In condemning himself to Death We would Be able to Be redeemed His church Would be Redeemed And so He also Does this In fulfillment Of prophecy Foretold Hundreds of Years Before Jesus Would ever Be born Nathan's Already Mentioned It a couple Weeks Ago But it's Worth Seeing here Again in Isaiah 53 He was Oppressed And he was Afflicted Yet he Did not Open his Mouth Like a Lamb Who Was Led To Slaughter Like a Sheep Who Is Silent Before Its Shears So he Did not Open his Mouth Isaiah 42 1 and 2 Says something Similar So Jesus Made no Further Answer So that Pilate Was Amazed The verb

[17:02] There for Amazed Is Thaumato To marvel To be in Wonder Or to have Admiration For So I want you To think about That for a Moment A Roman Authority Rome Already Didn't Have Much Regard For These People Because They Took Their Land To begin With They're Occupying A land That's Not Their To begin With But a Roman Authority Of the Day Admiring A Jewish Carpenter This Is Something Different To happen Apparently It didn't Happen Much Where People Would Remain Silent When They Are Facing A Potential Death Penalty Now Today It's Pretty Normal For Us To Invoke A Fifth Amendment A Right To To Not Have To Convict Yourself In Court So We Have The Right To Remain Silent In Our Culture Back Then He Had Only Himself To Defend Himself Jesus May Have Been The Only Person In

That Day Facing The Death Penalty Certainly The Only Person Who Was Innocent To Be Facing The Death Penalty And Not Try To Defend Himself Although This Might Not Be A Primary Lesson In The Text I Think There Is Something For Us To Understand Here Maybe A Lesson For Us To Grasp I Know It's One I Need To Exercise More Regularly In My Own Life That Silence Sometimes Speaks Louder Than Words Sometimes It's Better To Remain Silent In The Situation Dr.

Daniel Akin The President Of Southeastern Seminary Always Address The Orientation Before You Start In The Seminary There's A Separate Orientation For Single People And There's One For Married People And He Used To Always Say To The Married People In The Context Of Marriage Who Was Addressing Men In This Situation He Says!

How Much More Do Your Words Mean When You Speak Up Only When It's Things That Matter Only When The Things Are Important Enough To Speak Out On Like The Gospel Like Sharing Salvation With Your Friends Let me Get Back To The Actual Text Before I Veer Too Far Off Of The Central Theme Here Pilate Marveled At Jesus Because Of The Silence And This Put Pilate In A Tough!

He's Not A Biblical Thinker He's Certainly Not A Follower Or A Disciple Of Jesus But He's Conflicted Here Because As We're Going To See In A Few Moments Pilate Is A Coward I Don't Know Any Other Way To Put That But He Is Simply A Coward And He Does Something Between Verses 5 And 6 What Does He Do!

[20:00] He Sends Jesus To Herod We Don't Get This In Our In Our Portion Again But Again It's In Luke Chapter 23 Luke Gives Us This Account That Galilee Is Herod's Jurisdiction And It Just So Happens That Herod Is In Town That Day And So Pilate Decides That He Might Have A Way Out Of This He Might Be A To Send Jesus To Herod And Let Herod Deal With Him By The Way This Is The Same Herod Herod Antipas Who Tragically Had John The Baptizer Beheaded Because John The Baptizer Spoke Out About Herod's Adulterous Relationship Herod Had An Adulterous Relationship With A Woman He Eventually Married But He Married His Brother In Laws Or Sorry His Brother In Laws Wife Something Like That So John The Baptist Was Beheaded

And His Head Was Served On The Platter All Under Herod Antipas I had The Distinct Pleasure Of Preaching That Passage Here A Few Months Ago Herod Antipas Was A Wicked Immoral Adulterous And Murderous Man He Was Not A Good Man Now Did Herod Know About Jesus He Absolutely Did We Find That Out In Luke 23 And He Feared That Jesus Wasn't Get This He Feared Jesus Was John The Baptist Back From The Dead And Coming To Punish Herod Antipas If That's

Not A Guilty Conscience I Don't Know What Is So Jesus Now Stands For Yet Another Trial Harry Questions Him He Mocks Him He Asks To See Signs And Miracles Come From Him And Jesus Stands Completely Silent He Has Nothing To Say To Herod Antipas

Not A Good Place To Be In If You're Herod By The Way When You Have The Son Of God Standing Before You And He Has Nothing To Say To You At All It's Not A Good Place To Be In When Herod Had His Fun Herod Thought This Was A Joke He Kind Of Treated It Like A Joke He Had His Fun With Jesus And He Sends Him Back To Pilate So We Pick Back Up In Mark Chapter 15 Verse 6 Now The Feast To Be A Placate The People That They Are Occupying Rome At This Point In History Has Lots Of Experience In Occupying Foreign Lands And So They Would Come In And They Would Use Certain Techniques To Be Able To Placate The People That They're Occupying Ancient Sources Tell Us That This Was A Provision Of Goodwill That Roman Governors Did A Lot In Places That They're Trying To Maintain Some Sense Of Mercy They're Trying To Show That They're Being Merciful And Pilate Is Sure In This Moment That The Crowd Is Going To Pick Jesus Over Barabbas Because He's No Longer Speaking To Just The Sanhedrin He's Speaking To The Jewish People As A Whole In This Moment And It Says!

So This Is The Son Of The Father Being Offered In Place Of The Divine Son Of The Divine Father There's Some Symbolism Going On There And The Crowd Came Up And Began To Ask Pilate To Do As He Usually Did For Them And He Answered Him Saying Do You Want Me To Release For You The King Of The Jews There's So Much Scorn In That Statement Pilate Is A Man Full Of Bitterness And Guilt And Hate Let History Record That This Man Knew That Jesus Was Innocent Of All Charges He Is Standing Before Him Before A Crowd And Acting As If Jesus Had Some Sort Of Guilt In Him Knowing That He Had No Guilt And He Gives The People Of Israel The Chance To [24 : 30] Stop This Corrupt Efforts Of The Sanhedrin From Convicting Jesus And He Fully Expects Them To Want To Release Jesus And The Reason That He Thought That He Was On Safe Ground Here Is In Verse 10 For He Perceived That It Was Out Of Envy That The Chief Priest Had Delivered Him Up So Pilate Is Finished Talking With The Sanhedrin He Is Speaking With The People Of Israel Hoping That They Would Let A Man That He Knows Is Innocent Go Free And The Chief!

Priests Are So Envious He Been On The Outside Of The Situation Until Right Now He Has Been On The Periphery Of The Whole Situation The Whole Conflict Between The Sanhedrin Between Jesus Even He Understands Even He Can See From The Outside Their Envy The Envy Of These People They Didn't Like It That Jesus Was A Greater Teacher Than They Were Following Him And Hanging On Every Single Word That He Would Say And They Didn't Like It That He Had Far More Influence Among The People Than They Did Even Pilate Sees This In Verse 11 But The Chief Priest Stared At The Crowd To Have Him Release For Them Barabbas Instead This Is Scandalous It's

Unthinkable What Did Barabbas Do For Anybody What Good Was There Found In This Man Named Barabbas In Effect They Are Saying Let The Guilty Live And Kill The Sinless One Treat The Innocent As Guilty And The Guilty As In Verse 12 Pilate Again Said To Them Then What Shall I Do With The Man You Call The King Of The Jews I Want To Pause Here For A Moment Because Isn't That The Ultimate Question Isn't That The Question That Every Man And Woman Who Walks On This Earth Has To Ultimately Answer At Some Point In Their Lifetime What Are You Going To Do With The King Of The Jews What What What Are You Going To Do With The Son Of God How You Answer That

Question Will Change The Course Of Your Life It Has Mine

What Are You Going To Do With The King Of The Jews It's A Question That If You Haven't Already Answered I Plead With You To Answer Today You Either Accept Him Or You Reject Him Verse 13 They Cry out Again Crucify Him That's The Crowd They've Been Led Into This Hysteria About A Sanhedrin It's Hard To Understand Isn't It On Monday As Jesus Is Walking In To Jerusalem He's Riding In Actually To Jerusalem They Are Bowing Down Before Him And They Are Crying Out Hosanna Blessed Is He Who Comes In The Name Of The Lord Hosanna In The Highest And They Are Worshipping Him As He Rides Into Jerusalem Now Friday Of The Same Week They Join The Rest Of The Corrupt Blasphemers How Does This Happen They Take Their Place With Judas And Annas

[29 : 39] And Caiaphas And Herod And A Sanhedrin And Pilate Pilate Still Incredulous In Verse 14 Pilate Said To Them Why What Evil Has He Done And Preach It Pilate Amen He Was Innocent Pilate Yet Again Declares The Innocence Of Jesus Here You See It Over And Over And Over Again

Pilate Declaring His Innocence But The Crowd Is Relentless And They Shout All The More Crucify Him!

What an Amazing Passover Day By The Way This Amazing That All These People Were There That Day To Honor God With The Passover Meal This Is The Height Of Worship For Them This Is The Paramount Ceremony That They Do Each And Every Year And They Do It To Thank God And To Honor Him For Leading Them Out Of Egypt Out Of Slavery To The Egyptians And Letting Them Be Free God Freed Them In The Passover So They Celebrating This They Are There To Remember The Goodness God And The Mercy Of God That Brought Him Out Slavery In Egypt And At The Same Time They're Screaming For The Death Of His Son The Irony Here Is Astounding So Pilate's Finished He caves Into The Pressure Of The

Crowd So Pilate Wishing To Satisfy The Crowd I Love That Statement How Does That Sound To Be Written Over The History Of Your Life They Could Have Engraved His Gravestone With Pontius Pilate Crowd Pleaser This Was A Man Who Declared Over And Over And Over Again Jesus' Innocence And Ultimately Ended Up Caving In To The Crowd They Might As That Sentence Might As Well Just Read So Pilate Being A Spineless Coward Release For Them Barabbas And Having Scourged Jesus He Delivered Him To Be Crucified Some Legends Grew up About The End Of Pilate's Life Really Interesting Ones Actually We Know For Sure From Eusebius And Other Reliable Historians In The First And Second Century That He Was Eventually Exiled From Rome And He Killed

Himself Circa 80 38 But The Legends Go Out From There And Some Of Them Are Bizarre And Interesting There's One Legend That Says After He Committed Suicide His Body Was Taken And Thrown Into Tiber River Which Is The Main River That Runs Through Rome At Which Moment When The Body Hit The Water The Water Became So Disturbed With Evil Spirits That It Rejected His Body And So His Body Was Removed There From There And Taken To Vienna And Thrown Into!

It's a Legend But It's Not The End Of All The Legends That Are Out There The Rhone River According To Another Legend Rejected Pilate's Corpse So It Was Again Removed And Taken To Luzon Switzerland It Was Taken Out Of That Place Because They Didn't Want It There And It Was Moved To A Mountain In Switzerland Now Known As Mount Pilatus They Obviously Someone Thinks That That That That Was Where His Final Resting Place Was By The Name But There's Yet Another Lake Called Lago Di Pilato In The Sibylline Mountains In Italy You Can Guess By The Name That Somebody Also Believe That His Body May Have Been Placed There Where Legends Say That Every Good Friday The Body Of Pilate Walks Out Of The Water And Washes His Hands These Are The Legends The Truth Is That Pilate Killed Himself His Body Dissolved In His Souls And Forever

[33 : 50] In Hell That Is The Unfortunate Reality For Him So Pilate Makes His Final Decision In Jesus Trial And Having Scourged Jesus He Delivered Him To Be Crucified Scourged The Word There Is Fragilao I Hope I Pronounced That Right It Literally Means Flogged The Flog Was A Whip That Had Several Strands Of Leather Coming Off Of It Each Strand Had Sharp Objects On The End It Was Usually Bone Stone Or Iron Sharp Points And As They Would Whip The Person Being Punished It Would Grab Ahold Of The Flesh And Rip It Apart It Very Very Painful Process A So

Pure So Perfect Be Treated With Such Scorn And Wrath And Harshness The Answer I Believe Takes Us Back To Isaiah 53 Where Isaiah Says He Was Despised And Rejected By Man We Are Certainly Seeing This Being Fulfilled In In Mark Chapter 15 A Man Of Sorrows And Acquainted With Grief And As From One Whom Men Hide Their Faces He Was Despised And We Esteemed Him Not Surely He Has Born Our Grievs And Carried Our Sorrows Yet We Esteemed Him Stricken Smitten By God And Afflicted He Was Pierced For Our Transgressions He Was Crushed For Our Iniquities And Upon Him The Chastisement That Brought Us With His Wounds We Are Healed Yet It Was The Will Of The Lord To

Crush Him Let That Soak In For A Moment It Was The Will Of God To Crush His Own Son He Has Put Him To Grief When His Soul Makes An Offering For Guilt Therefore I Will Divide Him A Portion With The Many This Is The Promise For Us And He!

So how Can Such An Injustice Take Place In Mark Chapter 15 One Answer Is Because Man Is Totally Wretched Completely And Utterly Depraved That's Us But The Other Answer Is That God Is So Totally Merciful You Can't Miss That In This This Was God's Plan All Along And In The Same Passage You See The Best Of God And The Worst Of Man All Together This Is God's Plan All

Long And While Words Cannot Explain The Travesty That Occurred On That Day!
There's Freedom Found In Those Scars With Every Lash He Took He Demonstrated His Love For
Us And We Have So Much To Rejoice In For That Brothers And Sisters For If While We Were
Enemies We Are Reconciled To God By The Death Of His Son Much More Now That We Are
Reconciled Shall We Be Saved By His Life Let's Pray Together To