

Nov 30th 2008: Mark: Clues For All To See: 15:33-47

The game of cludo is famous.....

Clues are deliberately left.....so that players may discover.....villan *****
The cross is that place.....where God delib left clues.....sinners may discover a Saviour

On the cross of Calvary.....God was at work.....

And for those who care to look.....The clues revealing His involvement are several

Clue One: *THE DARKNESS*

Mark 15:33

At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.

- **The sixth.....was 12 noon making the ninth 3.00pm**

Three hours of darkness

Only God could do that.....

and His timing is significant

- **Remember that all this is taking place during.....Passover**

A feast when.....remembered.....that a lamb had been sacrificed....so that death

And you may also recall.....that the death of the first born was number 10 of

But does anyone know what plaque number 9 was ??? 3 days

God is again at work.....visiting darkness.....before the first born dies for the sins

Clue from History

CLUE TWO: That cry from the cross.....15:34

*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?"*

Of all the clues.....this is the One that Jesus→God the Son.....made so obvious

It is the first line of Psalm 22

A psalm written 900.....that gives specific details.....about this crucifixion

- **To my mind this.....**most obvious clue of all.....that God was at work here
Yet it was the one shown to be so easily missed

**Some thought He cried out for Elijah.....Cried out for a drink
They all heard the words.....but they missed out on the message**

Clue from Prophecy

THIRD CLUE: The tearing of the curtain _____ **15:38**

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

Simultaneous with His death.....this thick veil....hung in the Temple to separate....was ripped....from top to bottom...→**80 foot**

By this act....the holy of holies: The place where the sacrifice for atonement was offered Was revealed to all

And it was obviously no the act of man

God letting His people know...that the perfect sacrifice that ends all.....offered up &
And when did it happen ????

Clue from the Law

FOURTH CLUE: The Testimony of a Tough Gentile _____ **15:39**

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!"

- **To be a Centurion**.....was to have a position of authority.....that you earned
This Centurion had walked alongside Jesus down the avenue of pain

He responded to the clues He saw

The final cry of Jesus.....The way Jesus died

This tough nut of a Gentile.....saw those clues and proclaimed "Surely this man was
And in so doing.....His words become....**Another clue for us....**OF God at work

- **A clue missed again** by those who should have seen it

That's the irony here.....A Gentile sees.....what the religious Jews refused

Clue from the Gentiles

THE FIFTH CLUE: The involvement of Joseph 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.

Coming straight after the testimony of a Gentile.....God shows us that not **all Religious leaders.....are blind to the truth**

- **Joseph was a member of the Sanhedrin.....as was Nicodemus**
Both were in opposition to the council's decision.....Both were disciples
And with great courage.....Joseph's asks for the body

How awesome a clue to God being at work this is.....That 2 members of

Clue from the Jews

This then leads in to the final clue

SIXTH CLUE: Buried in a special tomb 15:46

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.

- **In the normal course of things**.....a crucified man.....was not allowed
So for Jesus to be buried in a tomb such as this.....was not only the fulfilment...miracle

An Obvious Clue....that God is at work.....**PREPARING** for what will happen next

The resurrection.....was enhanced by the tomb from which he was raised

*The great Escape artist...Houdini.....knew the import....of people seeing how diff
So everything he added....chains...handcuffs...sack.....**AIMED** at proving how amazing*

- **The tomb that Jesus was buried in.....**was in an open place...Not hidden
It was a cave with one opening....and a channel along which.....
It could be easily sealed.....Easily guarded

God prepared that tomb.....for the Resurrection
That it was ready for Jesus to be placed into it before sunset....Yet another clue

Clue for the future

- **To see such clues**.....in this record of the crucifixion.....is nothing less than we should expect

God calls us to accept the reality of who Jesus is...BY Faith

His death and.....by faith

To commit to following Him.....by Faith

But it's no blind faith

He also gives us reasons to believe.....

Clues about His existence....His presence.....Clues about His love

Even before we became Christians.....God was at work.....leaving clues....

And since we have believed.....He has continued to show us.....everyday
Signs of His presence...His power...his working on our behalf

An unexpected blessing.....Help when most needed....**A coincidental** happening
God's ongoing clues....pointing to Himself....Esp for us

- **And also God uses us....**our lives and testimonies....our loving acts
As clues for others....that He lives.....and cares for them

You and I are part of God's clue package to the World.....

He now lives in us.....So that others will know....

That there is a Saviour

