

Nov 23rd 2008 Mark: The Crucified King: Mark 15:16-32

It was some months ago....set down the passage... speaking on today
And when I did.....I read thro it.....title→ **THE CRUCIFIED KING**

- **Since.....**read through it many times...and that is still the main thought
IT is the account of the crucifixion of a king.....Indeed of The King....

Mark doesn't give us great details of the crucifixion itself.....**He** gives us enough...

But what he does present.....is worded in such a way....that its hard to miss
...the **kingship** theme.....not only comes thro in what they say....But in some ...actions

We know from the previous passage.....that the charge the Sanhedrin.....**HE** claimed

Then followed the opening question of Pilate.....(in v2) Are you the king ?
And from then on whenever Pilate speaks.....**refers to Him as the king of.....**

- **That doesn't prevent him however...handing him over**

And then we have **the irony** of a situation.....

Where the Roman soldiers.....took Him into the Praetorium

- **dress him as a king**
- **Crown Him as a king**
- **Bow before Him as a king**

It was for them a cruel act of vicious mockery

They did not believe He was a king.....

By such sadistic behaviour.....they took out their anger on the Jews

But though their acts were not genuine.....**Tho** they were meant to belittle not honour
When you remove the vicious horse play.....The tongue in cheek acting around

They actually paid homage to a king

You may perhaps recall ...last week....made reference to the statement Caiaphas made
.as recorded by John in 11:50

You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the
whole nation perish."

John went on to say in v51-52

He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would
die for the Jewish nation, and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of
God, to bring them together and make them one.

- **There is no doubt** that Caiaphas did not intend.....
to prophecy the triumphant..... **But he did**
- **There is no way** that these soldiers.....or the enemies of Jesus.....intended
To highlight the kingship of.....**but they did**
- **When the Centurion** stopped Simon from Cyrene.....and forced him to carry
It was a subject.....being commanded.....into an act of duty for a king
- **When the sign**...written in three languages....was hung on the cross
Meant to be a condemnation of Jesus.....an act of defiance by.....a mockery of
IT STILL PROCLAIMED JESUS AS KING

And when in v31-32 we read:-

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! Let this Christ, this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe."

It is still as the Messiah.....as the king.....that he is addressed

- **But of course**....all these ref to His kingship....absolutely empty....worth nothing
Just the makings of a sick and bad joke...**If nothing** followed but death decay
Jesus would have just been seen.....wretched crucified man
With ridiculous aspirations

(Some years back a character self anointed himself as Prince Leonard....)

**For Jesus there was the greatest follow on
.The King proved....by rising...**

When in 1 Cor 15 Paul speaks....certainty of Resurrection.....Immed follows...
.by referring to Christ's reign...his kingdom....dominion→ His Kingship

As always we see....resurrection changes everything

- **Take that challenge we just referred to from His enemies:**

Let this Christ, this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe."

- **If you are king....come down: Defeat this act of crucifixion**

And He did.....Not as they expected.....He defeated power of death after....its worst

- **And His reason for doing it that way**
- Proving His kingship thro His death....rather than thro avoiding
- Is linked with **Mark 10:45**

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

In those daysransom.....meant the price paid to give freedom

On the cross Jesus offered the ransom.....that gives us freedom

Not just freedom from judgment.....the mastery of sin

But freedom to be the beautiful...spiritually in tune person....that God made

- **His death was required.....**that we might access our freedom.....
- **His death was the ransom.....**the King's Ransom for youfor me

Just think.....The King of Kings.....valued your eternal exist so much....chose

Then there is one further truth proclaimed....

by Jesus as King....choosing to stay on

....and that relates to timing

- **Though He was king.....**He did look so impotent on that cross
Their mockery seemed justified.....

But He wasn't.....

There on the cross He was winning the battle.....that 3 days later

And there are times in our lives.....when we look to Jesus.....cry out to Him
Yet nothing seems to change.....**The difficulties** continue...increase

Does that mean the King of Kings is powerless.....The Mighty warrior lacks...

That's the mistake they made about Him on the cross.....**Crucified but King**
Knowing that the time was not then to come down.....**but** that the time would come

And that's the confidence we can take away this morning
At the very moment when He seemed most inactive.....
He was most Kingly

In the darkest moments.....He did His greatest work

- **Hang on to that thought if you are in a dark place today**
- **Store it away for the future.....if you are not**

Because He is still King.....He is still the mighty warrior.....
And He will never stop being
Your Champion.....Your King.....Your Friend