

The Passion of our Lord according to Mark

Mark 14:1-15:47 (Abridged)

Narrator: It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests to betray him. They were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

The disciples went and prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

Jesus: Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.

Narrator: They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

Disciples: Surely, not I?

Jesus: It is one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.

Narrator: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said,

Jesus: Take; this is my body.

Narrator: He took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them and they all drank from it.

Jesus: This is my blood of the covenant, poured out for many. I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

Narrator: When they had sung the hymn, they went to the Mount of Olives. Jesus said to them,

Jesus: You will all become deserters; for it is written, "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered." But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.

Peter: Though all become deserters, I will not.

Jesus: Truly I tell you, this day, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.

Peter: Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you!

Narrator: All of them said the same. They went to a place called Gethsemane. Jesus said,

Jesus: Sit here while I pray.

Narrator: He took with him Peter, James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated.

Jesus: I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.

Narrator: Going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

Jesus: Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.

Narrator: He came and found them sleeping.

Jesus: Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Narrator: Again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. Once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said,

Jesus: Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour is here; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us go. See, my betrayer is at hand.

Narrator: While he was still speaking, Judas arrived with a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. The betrayer had given them a sign,

Judas: The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.

Narrator: When he came, he went up to him at once.

Judas: Rabbi!

Narrator: and he kissed him. Then they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. One of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

Jesus: Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.

Narrator: All of them deserted him and fled. They took him to the high priest; and all the chief priests, elders and scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. He sat with the guards warming himself at the fire.

Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him,

People: **We heard him say, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands."**

Narrator: But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

Priest: Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

Narrator: But he was silent and did not answer.

Priest: Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?

Jesus: I am; and "you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power," and "coming with the clouds of heaven."

Narrator: Then the high priest tore his clothes.

Priest: Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your verdict?

Narrator: All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,

Priest: Prophecy!

Narrator: The guards also took him and beat him. Below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

Servant: You also were with Jesus, from Nazareth.

Narrator: But he denied it, saying,

Peter: I do not know what you are talking about.

Narrator: He went out to the forecourt; then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

Servant: This man is one of them.

Narrator: But again he denied it. After a little while, the bystanders again said to Peter,

People: **Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.**

Narrator: But he began to curse and swore an oath.

Peter: I don't know this man you're talking about.

Narrator: At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him. He broke down and wept.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests consulted with the elders, scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.

Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus: You say so.

Narrator: Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

Pilate: Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.

Narrator: But Jesus made no further reply, so Pilate was amazed. Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner. A man called Barabbas was in prison with rebels who committed murder during the insurrection. The crowd asked Pilate to do as was his custom.

Pilate: Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?

Narrator: For he realized that the chief priests had handed him over out of jealousy. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead.

Pilate: Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?

People: **Crucify him!**

Pilate: Why, what evil has he done?

Narrator: But they shouted all the more,

People: **Crucify him!**

Narrator: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas; after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers led him to the palace courtyard; and they called together the whole cohort.

They clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him and began saluting him,

People: **Hail, King of the Jews!**

Narrator: They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him.

They took Jesus to Golgotha, which means the place of a skull. They offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. They crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was 9:00 in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." With him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him,

People: **You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself and come down from the cross!**

Narrator: The chief priests, with the scribes, also mocked him among themselves.

Priest: He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross so we may see and believe.

Narrator: The two crucified with him also taunted him. When it was noon, darkness came over the

whole land until three in the afternoon. At 3:00 Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

Jesus: Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?

Narrator: which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

People: **Listen, he is calling for Elijah.**

Narrator: Someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him,

People: **Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.**

Narrator: Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

Soldier: Truly this man was God's Son!

Narrator: When evening came, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. He bought a linen cloth and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, laid it in a tomb hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.