



SPORTS IN FOCUS

The Servant Conquers Sin and Death

Mark 15:1-16:20 • Lesson Twelve

READY

- Most every classic drama features a fierce conflict between good and evil, with evil being vanquished and good triumphing in the end. Then the story's characters "live happily ever after." What were some of your favorite stories as a child?

SET

Context of Mark 15:1-16:20

Mark closes with the two events that loom largest as far as the glory of God and the salvation of humankind are concerned: Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ was the climax of redemptive history, the focal point of God's plan of salvation. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the single greatest event in the history of the world. It is so foundational to Christianity that no one who denies it can be a true Christian. Without the resurrection of Jesus, there is no Christian faith, no salvation, and no hope.

Keys to Text

Atonement: The act by which God restores a relationship of harmony and unity between Himself and human beings. The word can be broken into three parts that express this great truth in simple but profound terms: at-one-ment. Through God's atoning grace and forgiveness, we are reinstated to a relationship of at-one-ment with God, in spite of our sin. (Nelson's Bible Dictionary).

GO

Read Mark 15:1-16:20

1. The Jewish rulers had already tried Christ before the Sanhedrin (14:53-65). Now (chapter 15), Jesus is tried a second time before Pilate, the Roman governor. What happened in this second trial? How were the two trials similar? How were they different?
2. Mark's account of the crucifixion is not as detailed as the other gospel writers. What key events did he record and why? How did the different witnesses of this event respond?
3. Who was Joseph of Arimathea and why did he take charge of Jesus' body?
4. Read Luke 23:39-43. What strikes you about this conversation? What are the implications of Jesus' comments?
5. Read John 20:11-39. What do these post-resurrection appearances by Christ mean for us?
6. This lesson began with a question about classic stories. In what ways is the gospel similar to a story? How is it different?
7. How can you, in practical ways, show gratitude to God today for sending His Son Jesus to die on the cross for your sins?

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"God has been drawing, is now drawing, and, until the final judgment, will continue to draw sinful men and women back to Himself and to restore the world that sin has corrupted—all for the purpose of bringing glory to Himself. When sinners are saved, God is glorified because their salvation cost Him the death of His own Son, the immeasurable price that His magnanimous grace was willing to pay." —John MacArthur

In what specific ways would today (or tomorrow) be different if you lived each moment with a conscious awareness of the fact that Jesus Christ is not only alive, but present with you?