



Rockbridge Church Small Groups Lesson 15
Mark 15 – Real Jesus (Read Mark 15)

Questions:

1. What do you see in Mark 15 that helps you know what Jesus is like?
2. In what ways do you see Jesus hard at work, on a mission, with a purpose, loving people?
3. What one thing about Jesus stands out to you in this chapter? (What about Jesus astonishes you, amazes you, challenges you or comforts you?)
4. In Mark 15, who encounters Jesus, and how do they respond to Him?
5. How are you responding to the Jesus you encountered in Mark 15?
6. What was most instructive, and what did you appreciate most from Sunday's sermon?

Check out the additional notes on **Jesus, the Cross and Joy** on the next page

Jesus, the Cross and Joy

*" . . . fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith,
who for the joy set before Him endured the cross . . ."
Hebrews 12:2*

Mark 15 describes, rather briefly, the crucifixion of Jesus. Words cannot express the searing pain, the torment, the sheer horror of death by crucifixion. Add to that the unimaginable agony of being forsaken (when Jesus took our sins on Himself) by God, the Father. Jesus experienced a worse death than any human has ever faced.

Take another look at that remarkable verse — *"for the joy that was set before Him"* Jesus *"endured the cross."*

What was the joy set before Him?

- * the joy of pleasing God the Father — doing His will
- * the joy of self sacrificing love — it is more happy to give than to receive
- * the joy of rescuing people
- * the joy of granting people access to God, and entrance to Heaven
- * the joy of making full payment for our sins, so that we are spared the penalty
- * the joy finishing His mission
- * the joy of conquering death
- * the joy of destroying the works of the devil (1 John 3:8)
- * the joy of anticipating Heaven, and watching us celebrate and laugh, never to weep again

On the cross, Jesus experienced the terrible burden of our sins, the trauma of dying on the cross, and the anguish of being temporarily alienated from His Father. But His suffering was overshadowed by the joy of our salvation.

When Jesus walked the Earth, He lived every moment with a happiness and joy in His past; He lived every moment with the happiness of an eternal perspective in the present; and He lived with a moment-by-moment anticipation of unending happiness in the future.

May we learn to live with the same joy and happiness Jesus knew, even in the face of suffering and pain. Jesus spoke some words to His disciples just hours before His death — *"These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full"* (John 15:11). Or as one version expresses it, *"I told you this to make you as completely happy as I am"* (John 15:11 — Contemporary English Version).