

Message Notes
"They and Those. And Him."
Mark 15.21-37
Jesus: the Gospel of Mark, Part 41
March 18, 2012



1. Thursday and Friday

Mark 14-15

2. They and Those

Mark 15.21-32

•A Valley Doesn't Always Mean a Wrong Turn.

Mark 15.21

•Suffering can Harden us. Or Soften us.

Mark 15.27, 32b
Luke 23.36-43

3. And Him

Mark 15.33-37

Q: Why did Jesus Stay on the Cross?

Isaiah 53.10 (hāpēs)

Mark 14.36

A: Love and Glory

•Our Problems are not with People, they are with God!

•Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering
and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5.2b

Growth Group Questions
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1. Sunday we said, "A valley doesn't mean a wrong turn." Does this resonate with you? Share a detour in your life that you perhaps realized later was the Lord's directing.
2. Read over the story of Philip and the Ethiopian, Acts 8.26-40. It seems Philip *thought* he might be going to Gaza, v.26, but God had other plans on this road (and look where he eventually ends up, v.40). *Sometimes God accomplishes his purposes on the road to where you think you are going.* How do you keep an open heart for God during the unexpected, uninvited valleys, detours, and delays? Think biblically.
3. We often say "Cheer up. You're a lot worse off than you ever thought. But His grace and love is more than enough." What do you think? How do "they and those" around the cross of Jesus (Mark 15.21-37) demonstrate and confirm this, The Gospel? How does this horrible-wonderful truth affect your life?
4. Mark tells the story of Jesus' death with economy and power. Read slowly Mark 15.33-37. 1000 years earlier, King David, filled with God's Spirit wrote about his own suffering *and* about the coming suffering of the Messiah Jesus. Read slowly together Psalm 22, the most quoted Psalm in the New Testament. As we think forward toward Jesus' death and resurrection, ponder and praise the willing suffering and obedience of the innocent One.