

Bearing Witness to the Gospel

Mark 15:1-20

When Mark wrote the gospel of Mark, Christians in Rome were victims of persecution. This historical account of Jesus before Pilate was to be an encouragement to those persecuted by Jesus faithful example when facing shame, mockery, and harm.

1. True Identity

Jesus is now taken by the Sanhedrin to face trial before Pilate, the governor of Palestine. When Jesus spoke, His focus was on claiming His true identity; nothing more and certainly nothing less.

Jesus commitment to owning His own identity at the trial is something that Jesus calls us to follow. Being faithful to Jesus is in our commitment of owning our identity as Jesus discipiles with the emphasis of how Jesus dying on the cross for our sins and rising from dead three days later has transformed our life.

2. Trust in God

Although Pilate, the Sanhedrin and the crowd believe they are in control of Jesus' fate, the gospel of Mark reminds us that God is sovereign; each event had unfolded according to God's design to accomplish His saving purposes. (8:31; 9:12; 10:33-34a; 14:49)

Although we will face events in our life that are outside of our control, disciples of Jesus are able to still represent Jesus during times of hardship as their trust is in God and only God is sovereign over all.

Each detail the “handing over” (10:33; 15:15), “mockery” (10:34; 15:20), “spitting” (10:34; 15:19), and “flogging” (10:34; 15:15)—is fulfilled in the trial before Pilate and the flogging by the Roman Soldiers.... Fulfills the prophecy that Jesus shared with his disciples.

Questions:

- What does it look like to take ownership of the identity that you received through Jesus' death and resurrection? What does it look like at home, at work/school, at church, or when a person faces persecution?
- Read 1 Peter 3:15. What reason would you give to someone who asks about the hope that you have each day?
- Why should we trust firmly in God's Word without wavering?