

Intro.

- A. How would you summarize your life in 2 or 3 statements?
1. Really cares about people. Gives the Grinch a tight race for a bad disposition. Slothful.....diligent.
 2. I don't know how long we have to live, but there is still time for us to make appropriate changes.
 3. We certainly need to make changes *if* we are not faithful Christians--- *servants of God*.
- B. To be a Christian is to be *like Christ*.
1. *I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work* God had given Him to do.
 2. What confidence, what a tribute to know that we have done the Father's work & glorified His name.
- C. Tonight we see last 4 major events in Jesus' life, as Mark describes the climax of the Gospel.

Discuss.**I. The SERVANT'S DEATH Mk. 15:21-41**

- A. **3rd hour** (Mark used Jewish time = 9:00 a.m. // diff. to John's use of Rm time, 6th hr = 6a.m. **Jn. 19:14**)
1. Roman law required victim of crucifixion to carry own cross mean to place of execution (c. **Jn. 19:16**)
 2. Because Christ could not continue, Simon was compelled (drafted) to carry it for Him (c. **Mt. 5:41**)
 - a. according to law, the guilty had to carry won cross--- only fair that man (Simon) carried.
 - b. The Cyrene was in Jeru. to observe the Passover, but he actually met the Passover Lamb of God.
 - c. This Simon was apparently father of 2 later disciples, Alex. & Rufus, **Rm. 16:13**
 3. By custom, a narcotic potion was given to victims to deaden the pain, c. **Prov. 31:6**
 - a. Jesus rejected the narcotic, wanting to be in complete control of His faculties.
 - b. He would take no short cuts in doing the Father's will. ---**What an example for us!!!** **Jn. 19:19**
 - c. Typically, a placard declared transgressors name & crime, so Jesus' read: ...*Jesus, king of Jews*
 - d. **Psa. 22:6-18** gives a prophetic summary of the sufferings Christ would endure when crucified.
 - e. Even the thieves crucified w/ Christ mocked Him (although, 1 soon became penitent, **Lk. 23**)
- B. **6th hour** ---**vs. 33** was the beginning of miraculous darkness f/ noon to 3:00 p.m.
1. Wonder how many of the Jews thought about that 9th plague, 3-day darkness, **Ex. 10:22f**
 2. Darkness at Calvary announced that God's 1st Born was sacrificing His life for mankind's sins.
 3. This darkness also represented the darkness of the people's hearts who rejected Christ's teachings.
- C. **9th hour**---**vs. 34-41** Jesus' last hours & his last words.
1. between 9a.m. & noon, Jesus spoke 3 times:
 - a. *Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.* **Lk. 23:34**
 - b. To the thief, *Today you will be with me in Paradise,* **Lk. 23:43**
 - c. **Jn. 19:26-27**, assigned Mary to John's care.
 2. during the last hours on Calvary, between 3:00 & 6:00 p.m., Christ spoke 4 more times:
 - a. 1st, we hear a "???" – *My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me?* **Vs. 34**
 - b. Next, f/ John's record we hear a weak statement, *I thirst,* (**Jn. 19:28**) & see vinegar sipped. **Vs. 36**
 - c. As Jesus weakens He summarizes: *It is finished,* **Jn. 19:30 Lk. 23:46**
 - d. Finally, w/ His last breath he forcefully says: *Father, Into Thy hands I commit My spirit,* **Lk. 23:46.**
- D. 2 remarkable events took place at His death:
1. an earthquake (c. Sinai) which involved grave openings & a limited resurrection, (**Mt. 27:52**)
 2. the temple veil tore in half – freedom from the Law, & the whole sacrificial system. (**Mk. 15:39**)
 3. Touching to see some of the godly women who served the Lord present at the foot of the cross, **40f**

II. THE SERVANT'S BURIAL, Mk. 15:42-47

- A. The hill of execution soon cleared, since a high Sabbath would start at 6:00 p.m.
1. A rich man (part of the Sanhedrin), Joseph of Arimathea asked for Jesus' body, & placed it in own new tomb. (**Mt. 25:57**)
 2. W/ him was Nicodemus (**Jn. 19:39**), he helped prepare the body.
- B. Ever considered the evidence of a resurrected Christ was strengthened because of their efforts?

III. THE SERVANT'S RESURRECTION, **Mk. 16:1-18**

- A. The implications of the resurrection of Christ are clear ---read **1 Cor. 15:12-19**
- B. Notice the numerous witnesses of the resurrected Savior:
1. 3 women at the tomb Sunday morning (Mary, Mary & Salome) **Mk. 16:1f**
 2. Mary Magdalene, again, alone this time, **Jn. 20:11-18**
 3. Simon Peter, **Lk. 24:34**
 4. 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus, **Lk. 24:13-25**
 5. 10 apostles one Sunday (Thomas absent), **Jn. 20:17-25**
 6. 11 disciples, including Thomas, **Jn. 20:26-29**
 7. 500+ disciples gathered in one place, c. **1 Cor. 15:6**
 8. James, the Lord's brother, **1 Cor. 15:7**
 9. 11 apostles prior to the ascension, **Ac. 1:3-10**
 10. Saul of Tarsus, **1 Cor. 15:8**
- C. Interesting to note the disciples' unbelief, **Mk. 16:9-14**
1. **vs. 11 & 13** shows how difficult it was for the apostles to accept the resurrection.
 2. part of their problem was their worldly heart (hardened), **vs. 14**
- D. With authority & power that should make us all the very best listeners & followers, His commission was given, **Mk. 16:15-16**
1. It still amazes me how some will argue the necessity of faith, and ignore the necessity of baptism
 2. See Wiersbe's statement, vol. 1, pg. 167, 2 col. 2 parag.
- E. Even as Moses was given miraculous power as Divine credentials, proving he was God's servant, the apostles were given similar abilities for the same reasons, **Mk. 16:17-18**

IV. THE SERVANT ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN, **Mk. 16:19-20**

- A. Mark and Paul taught the same glorious gospel message:
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| 1. Mk. 1-13 | Christ came as a servant | Phil. 2:1-7 |
| 2. Mk. 14-15 | He died on the cross | Phil. 2:8 |
| 3. Mk. 16 | He was exalted to heaven | Phil. 2:9 |
- B. Both emphasized need to teach others (c. **Phil. 2:10f**)
1. There is an assurance that God works thru His servants, **Mk. 16:19 (Phil 2:12-13)**
 2. Our work today should be performed with confidence & diligence.
 - a. Confident that our Lord is our Advocate, **1 Jn. 2:1**
 - b. Confident of His help in our feeble effort with the anticipation of great results, **Heb. 13:20-21**

Concl.

- A. Did you get that? We have heaven's help to accomplish God's will, even as Christ did.
- B. The power of the resurrection is available to all, but only those who will follow Jesus can enjoy fellowship with Him & all the redeemed in heaven for ever & ever.
- C. Who will follow Jesus???