

Chapter 15

¹It was now very early in the morning. Immediately the chief priests, along with the elders, scribes and the whole Sanhedrin formed a plan. After binding Jesus, they led him away and delivered him over to Pilate.

²Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus replied, "It is as you say."

³The chief priests were making many accusations against him. ⁴So, Pilate continued to question him, "Aren't you going to answer? You hear how many things they accuse you of."

⁵But Jesus gave no further answers, so that Pilate was amazed.

⁶During the feast, Pilate would release for the people one prisoner whom they asked for. ⁷Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the uprising. ⁸As the crowd arrived they started asking Pilate to do what was customary.

⁹Pilate responded by asking, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

¹⁰For he knew that the chief priests had handed Jesus over out of envy. ¹¹But the chief priests incited the crowd so that Pilate would release Barabbas to them instead.

¹²Pilate again responded by asking them, "Then what do you want me to do with the one you call the King of the Jews?"

¹³The crowd screamed, "Crucify him!"

¹⁴But Pilate kept asking them, "Why? What evil has he done?"

But they screamed louder, "Crucify him!"

¹⁵Because Pilate wanted to appease the crowd, he released for them Barabbas, and handed over Jesus to be crucified, after scourging him.

¹⁶The soldiers led him away into the courtyard of the governor's residence and assembled the whole detachment of soldiers. ¹⁷They dressed him in a purple garment and placed on him a crown of thorns which they had twisted together. ¹⁸They saluted him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹Again and again, they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling to their knees, they mockingly worshipped him. ²⁰When they had finished mocking him, they stripped him of the purple garment and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹A certain man was passing by on his way from the countryside, Simon who was from

Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. The soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross.

²²They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which is translated as the place of the Skull. ²³They offered him myrrh infused wine, but he did not take it. ²⁴Then they crucified him and divided his garments among themselves by casting lots for them to determine what each would get.

²⁵It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The notice of the charge against him was: The King of the Jews. ²⁷They also crucified two criminals with him, one on his right and one on his left.

²⁹Those passing by were ridiculing him, shaking their heads and saying, "Ha! You were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. ³⁰Save yourself by coming down from the cross."

³¹In the same way, even the chief priests and scribes mockingly said to one another, "He saved others. He's not able to save himself. ³²Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we might see and believe." Those crucified with him were also savaging him.

³³At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until mid-afternoon. ³⁴Around three in the afternoon, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "*Eloĩ, eloĩ, lemá, savachtháni?*" Which is translated, "My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?"

³⁵When some of the bystanders heard this, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

³⁶But someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, attached it to a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink, saying, "Leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah will come to take him down."

³⁷Then Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last breath, ³⁸and the curtain of the Temple was split in two from top to bottom.

³⁹When the centurion who was standing in front of him saw how he died, he said, "Truly, this was the son of God."

⁴⁰Now there were also women watching from a distance, among whom were Mary from the village of Magdala, Mary the mother of James the younger and Joses, and Salome.

⁴¹When Jesus was in Galilee these women followed him and ministered to him. Many other women were also there who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴²Since it was Friday, a day of preparation for the Sabbath, as evening approached, ⁴³Joseph from the town of Arimathea (a respected leader of the Sanhedrin who also himself was looking for the Kingdom of God) boldly went in to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

⁴⁴Pilate was surprised, "Has he already died?" He summoned the centurion and questioned him if Jesus was already dead. ⁴⁵When Pilate got confirmation from the

centurion, he granted the corpse to Joseph.

⁴⁶After buying linen cloth and taking Jesus down from the cross, Joseph wrapped him in the linen cloth and laid him in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone over the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷Now Mary from Magdala and Mary the mother of Joses were watching to see where he was laid.

Chapter 16

¹When the Sabbath was over, Mary from Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint Jesus. ²Then very early in the morning on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb at sunrise. ³They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴But when they looked up they saw that the stone, which was huge, had already been rolled back. ⁵Upon entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right wearing a white robe. They were terrified.

⁶But he said to them, "Do not be terrified. You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen. He is not here. Look, here is the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell the disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you.'"

⁸They went out and fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered. They said nothing to anyone. They were afraid.

[The most reliable early manuscripts omit Mark 16:9-20. They are not included in this translation.]