

Mark 15:1-20
On Trial for the Souls of Mankind

“THESE VERSES BEGIN the chapter in which Mark describes the slaying of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29) It is a part of the gospel history which should always be read with peculiar reverence. We should call to mind that Christ was cut off not for himself but for us (Daniel 9:26). We should remember that His death is the life of our souls, and that unless His blood had been shed, we would have perished miserably in our sins...

Let us never forget that wicked men are often fulfilling God's predictions to their own ruin and yet know it not. In the very height of their madness, folly, and unbelief, they are often unconsciously supplying fresh evidence that the Bible is true. The unhappy scoffers who make a jest of all serious religion and can scarcely talk of Christianity without ridicule and scorn would do well to remember that their conduct was long ago foreseen and foretold. 'In the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lust' (2 Peter 3:3).” J.C. Ryle

- I. Jesus was subject to six illegal trials to determine his fate. He had to be put on trial to make his death justified in the eyes of those who accused him of lying. On trial was truth. Jesus says, *I am the way, the truth, and the life (Jn. 14:6)*. Would truth be found to be innocent and above reproach in a world controlled by the evil one? Truth is always on trial in an evil world system that is dominated by the cravings of sinful man, the lust of the eyes, and the boasting of what he or she has and does (1 Jn. 2:15-17). It is seen as a threat to the religion of humanism, a threat that must be silenced for the sake of propagating Satan's agenda. Those of us who embrace the truth of God's Word are on trial too, and we must be determined to stand firm in our faith knowing that it is the truth of the gospel that is at stake.

Mark 15:1-2
Luke 13:24-25
Matt. 7:13

“...today there are calls for evangelicals to remake Christianity into a more inclusive religion. There are widespread efforts to make the narrow door wider and to even affirm the salvation of well-meaning people of other religions. So-called progressive Christians advance the cause under the banner of love and compassion. In the process, the hard truths of Christianity are redefined or ignored.” Lutzer

- II. The first three trials Jesus endured were religious trials. Their purpose was to gain enough evidence to accuse Jesus of blasphemy. They give us a picture of how deceitfully wicked and sick the heart of man can be under the guise of religion. It should not surprise us then, that that's what we see going on at a dizzying pace in this time of redemptive history. Let us not be influenced by them, but instead let us be more determined to take a stand for the truth of the gospel no matter what it might cost us.

Mark 14:53-65

Jn. 18:19-24

Jn. 15:18-19

Matt. 26:62-68

Lk. 22:66-71

Matt. 27:1

1 Jn. 2:20-23

Psalm 56:11 *In God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?*

- III. There are two powerful forces of evil at work against the truth of the gospel. They find their origin in Satan, who uses the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms and the rulers, authorities, and powers of this dark world to fulfill his will (Eph. 6:12). It is serious warfare for the souls of mankind. When Jesus stood before Pilate and Herod during his civil trials, he went up against the rulers, authorities, and powers of this dark world. He stood alone as one man against Satan and his many sycophants who couldn't have cared less about him and his passion for saving souls. We stand united in Christ, and our responsibility is to put on the full armor of God so that we can fight well in this godless world for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mark 15:1-20

Jn. 18:28-38

Lk. 23:7-12

Gal. 6:7-8

Mk. 15:6-15; Lk. 23:13-25

Jn. 19:1-16