



LESSON 159 - Mark 15:23-25

Then they gave Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but He did not take it. And when they crucified Him, they divided His garments, casting lots for them to determine what every man should take. Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him.

We know Jesus had to be thirsty because He had not had anything since the Passover dinner the night before. The extreme loss of blood from the brutal treatment He suffered from the Romans would have contributed to that thirst. Why didn't He take what was offered? The drink was a narcotic mixture designed to lessened the excruciating pain of crucifixion. Proverbs 31:6-7 Give strong drink to him who is perishing, and wine to those who are bitter of heart. Let him drink and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.

Jesus was not "bitter of heart," so He refused to take the easy way out. He suffered the ultimate in pain and misery, more than any other man has ever suffered, without any relief, so that He would be able to be the Perfect Intercessor and High Priest of all who suffer. He understands our physical pain and our emotional hurts. That's why He is a compassionate Intercessor for us, and the Healer of broken hearts.

1. How many Roman soldiers accompanied Jesus to Golgotha? Mt 27:54, Jn 19:23-24
2. How many garments of Jesus were there? Jn 19:23-24
3. a. What was "casting lots?"
b. When did this take place?
4. When was the third hour?

Possible Answers

1. five, a centurion and four soldiers
2. five or six, depending on whether the centurion took part in the dividing of the garments
3. It was a form of gambling, like rolling dice, to determine the winner or loser. Each of the soldiers took one of the lesser garments, but the last was of such high quality they didn't want to tear it into four pieces, so they cast lots for it. (Jn 19:23-24) Little did those soldiers know that a thousand years before, God had had David write a psalm which prophesied that very thing. Read Psalm 22 and note how many things David wrote prophesied of the Messiah, Jesus, including the casting of lots for His garments. (Ps 22:18) "Men were ordinarily crucified naked (Artemidorus II. 61). Jewish sensitivities, however, dictated that men ought not to be publicly executed completely naked, and men condemned to stoning were permitted a loin-cloth (M. Sanhedrin VI. 3). Whether the Romans were considerate of Jewish feelings in this matter is unknown." (Lane)
b. After they nailed Jesus to the cross. Mk 15:24

4. The Jewish day started at sunrise or 6 am, so the third hour of the day would be 9 am. Jesus was nailed to the cross for you and me, and all mankind at 9 am. He died six hours later. (Mk 15:34-37)

While this deed was being done, a picture of the seeming defeat of Jesus and His work, unknown to the bystanders, gawkers, mockers, soldiers, Pilate, the Jews, the Romans, and the devil, God was winning back a part of His Kingdom, and establishing the Way back to Him. That is always the way it is, God is present with us in our worst circumstances,(Jesus died alone, so that we would never have to experience aloneness.) and He is active in providing for us whatever is needed, comforting our hearts, and giving us opportunity to draw closer to Him, despite the world's perception of the situation. The world thought Jesus had lost; on the contrary, Jesus and His Father won the victory at the cross. The devil was the defeated one. (1 Cor 2:1-8, Mt 12:29)

Jesus defeated the devil by His love for His Father, His faithfulness to His Father's Word and Will, living a life of thanksgiving and praise, and His obedience at all costs, keeping His Word to His Father in the covenant They had made before the world began--and that's how we defeat the devil in our lives.

[Back](#)

[Home](#) | [About Me](#) | [Contact](#) | [Book Reviews](#) | [Book Excerpts](#) | [Illustrator](#) | [Links](#) | [Bible Study-Mark](#) | [Book Orders](#)

Copyright © 2008 LambTalk - All rights reserved.

