



Taking Some Time to Reconnect with God

April 3, 2020

Prayer:

O Lord, no one on earth knows the hour of Your return. Only keep us watchful and awake, that we might always be at work in Your kingdom, for the sake of Jesus, amen.

Read: Mark 15:1-5

Mark 15:1-5 New International Version (NIV)

¹ Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

² “Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate.

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

³ The chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.”

⁵ But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

Reflect:

Pilate was amazed. That happened a lot. Particularly in the Gospel of Mark, people were constantly amazed at Jesus. They were amazed when He taught. They were amazed when He healed. Over and over again we read, “and they were amazed.”

What seems to amaze Pilate is that Jesus doesn’t defend Himself. He doesn’t protest His innocence, or call out the Religious Leaders shouting, “but look at what **they** did!!” He doesn’t complain that He’s been set up or that they’re just out to get Him. All of those things were true, but He doesn’t mention any of it.

Perhaps more amazing is that Jesus doesn’t have any trouble calling out people. Even a casual reading of Mark 11-14 shows that Jesus cries out against the errors, the sins, of people and especially of the Religious Leaders. He’s quick to defend the weak, the poor, those who are being taken advantage of by those same people. And He’s also quick to point out where they are in agreement as well (e.g. Mark 12:28-34). So Jesus doesn’t call out those who are accusing Him because He just doesn’t do that sort of thing. But He does choose not to defend Himself. Once again, Jesus is amazing.

As we ponder what Jesus does and doesn’t do as He stands in front of Pilate, this becomes clear. Jesus is quick to take a stand in defense. Just not in defense of Himself. He quite literally lays down His life and picks up the cross for us.

Then [Jesus] called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”— Mark 8:34 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus is amazing. . .and challenging to those of us who seek to follow Him.

In a world where injustices seem to abound, are we quicker to come to the defense of others, or of ourselves?

Be Blessed:

May you find peace in the life of day to day, trusting that God will keep you in the fold even at the end. Amen.