

The Greatness of the Cross: The Seven Wounds of Christ

Piercing of the Left Hand | Mark 15:33-39

Ohana Group Discussion Questions: Week of March 30th, 2025

OVERVIEW

In Mark 15:33–39, darkness falls as Jesus cries out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”—revealing the depth of His suffering on the cross. This powerful scene highlights both Christ’s sacrificial anguish and humanity’s restored access to God’s presence.

OHANA TIME!

Icebreaker: Share the most bizarre or random piece of trivia you know. (No context required!)

Or What’s the oddest flavor pairing you secretly love, and how did you discover it?

Activity: Observe Lent as a group by engaging in a spiritual discipline together (Scripture reading/memorization, prayer, fasting, etc.)

PRAYER

Pray: “Lord, help me to grasp the weight of Christ’s suffering and the depth of Your love, drawing me closer to You in gratitude and awe.”

BIBLE: READ MARK 15:33-39

1. Read the passage dramatically by assigning different roles to individuals (ex. Narrator, Jesus)
2. What details in today’s passage stand out to you or surprise you?
3. Verse 33 mentions that darkness covered the land for three hours. What might this darkness symbolize or foreshadow in the context of Jesus’ crucifixion?
4. In verse 34, Jesus cries out these words from Psalm 22. How do you think the onlookers would have reacted to this?
5. What does this cry reveal about the depth of Jesus’ suffering and His humanity?
6. When you hear Jesus say He is forsaken by God, what thoughts or emotions come to mind?
7. How does this sense of abandonment impact your understanding of Christ’s sacrifice?
8. Verse 38 mentions the temple curtain being torn in two. What does this event signify about humanity’s relationship with God in light of Jesus’ sacrifice?
9. In verse 39, the Roman centurion declares, “Truly this man was the Son of God!” What is the impact of this statement, and why do you think Mark includes it immediately after Jesus’ death?

APPLICATION

1. Jesus openly expressed His pain and sense of abandonment. How comfortable are you sharing raw emotions or doubts with God, and how might you begin to pray more honestly?
2. Are there times when you have felt forsaken or distant from God? How does Jesus’ experience on the cross speak to your own struggles or suffering? In what ways does Jesus’ suffering—and especially His sense of abandonment—offer hope, comfort, or perspective for you?
3. What role does Christian community (small group, church family, spiritual mentors) play in helping someone who feels forsaken or is going through a dark season?