

Read Mark 15:33-41

33 At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock.

34 Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

35 Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah.

36 One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. "Wait!" he said. "Let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down!"

37 Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last.

38 And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

39 When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, "This man truly was the Son of God!"

40 Some women were there, watching from a distance, including Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James the younger and of Joseph) and Salome.

41 They had been followers of Jesus and had cared for him while he was in Galilee. Many other women who had come with him to Jerusalem were also there.

What was happening in v. 33? Darkness came over the land from noon until three o'clock. **What was going on during the darkness?** The wrath of God was being poured out on Jesus for the sins of everyone in the world including you and me. I deserved to be punished for my sins but He took my punishment and He paid the price for my sins with His life. So I didn't have to die for my sins.

What did Jesus cry out and when (v. 34)? My God, why have You forsaken me. Why have You turned Your back on Me and left me all alone? He said that right around 3 PM when the darkness would have started lifting.

What did the people think He said (v. 35)? They thought He was calling Elijah. **What did one man do (v. 36)?** Lifted up a sponge filled with wine vinegar for Jesus to drink. **What did they tell the man to do?** Leave Him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to rescue Him.

What did Jesus do next (v. 37)? He gave out a loud cry and died.

What happened right when Jesus died (v. 38)? The curtain in the temple that separated God from His people was ripped from top to bottom.

What did that mean? That God wanted a close and intimate relationship with His people.

What did the Centurion say (v. 39)? Surely Jesus was the Son of God. **Who else was watching the crucifixion (v. 40)?** Several women. **What had these women done for Jesus (v. 41)?** They had followed Him around and taken care of His needs. They probably gave Him food.