

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE

Sermon Date: 06/09/2020

Text(s): Mark 15

Sermon Title: The Hebrew I.N.R.I.

Preacher: Rev Dr Jonathan Seet

(The sermon recording and slides are available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

Selected verses from Mark 13 are printed here for you, but do take the time to read the entire chapter from your own bibles.

Mark 15:1–5; 21–28 (NKJV)

1 Immediately, in the morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council; and they bound Jesus, led *Him* away, and delivered *Him* to Pilate.

2 Then Pilate asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” He answered and said to him, “*It is as you say.*”

3 And the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing.

4 Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, “Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You!”

5 But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marveled.

21 Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross.

22 And they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull.

23 Then they gave Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but He did not take *it*.

24 And when they crucified Him, they divided His garments, casting lots for them *to determine* what every man should take.

25 Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him.

26 And the inscription of His accusation was written above: THE KING OF THE JEWS

27 With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left.

28 So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “*And He was numbered with the transgressors.*”

REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect on key themes and questions in the text)

- 1. Jesus went through 3 trials before He was sent to Pilate. First, before Annas, father-in-law to Caiaphas (John 18:12–24). Second, before Caiaphas, the high priest. Third, before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish Council of Elders. After this, Jesus also stood before Pilate and Herod separately. In all these trials Jesus did not speak out to defend Himself as the Pharisees and scribes threw accusations against Him. Why do you think Jesus chose not to respond to the accusations during the many trials? If you were accused of something you didn't do, whether in an informal or formal setting, would you take great length to explain and defend yourself? Is there something we can learn from Jesus?**
- 2. History tells us that the Roman procurator, Coponius, took away the right to execute criminals from the Jewish authorities. Pilate, who came to the scene later, was a harsh and brutal procurator, who, at one time, killed several Jews inside the Temple in Jerusalem (Luke 13:1). He cared little about the customs of the Jews. But at this stage of his career, when the people kept shouting for Jesus to be crucified, he was eager to please them (Mark 15:15). What would have happened if the Jewish authorities had the power to sentence a person to death? What would have happened if Pilate had not given in to the mob's demand? What can you see in these events?**

RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate and apply God's word to our daily lives)

- 1. Pilate wrote the inscription "Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews" on a board in 3 languages and placed in on the cross of Jesus. Reading the inscription in Latin, "IESVS NAZARENVS REX IVDÆORVM" (read from right to left), the initials would be I.N.R.I. Reading the inscription in Hebrew it goes like this, "HaYehudim W'Melech HaNazarei Yeshua" (the initials would be HWHY (read from left to right). These 4 Hebrew letters are Yod-Hey-Vav-Hey or YHWH (reading from left to right) and these are the 4 letters of God's name Yahweh. The Lord God revealed His name to Moses as Yahweh (Exodus 6:2–3). How did it make you feel hearing that the reason the chief priest objected to the inscription of "Yeshua HaNazarei W'Melech HaYehudim" (reading right to left) was because they saw the letters YHWH in it? What thought ran through your mind listening to the preacher share this?**

2. A pictograph is a symbol for a letter or a word. If we look at the letters for HWHY (reading right to left for YHWH) in Hebrew and their corresponding symbols we get “Behold-Nail-Behold-Hand” or “Look-Nail-Look-Hand” (reading right to left). The preacher shared that in the name of God, Yahweh is telling us how to look for Him. Look at the hand, look at the nail and you’ll find God. Look at Jesus Christ and you’ll find God. What can you say about your life in view that Jesus’ coming was ordained from eternity past, and that God had even given many pointers towards His coming?

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for weekly guide)

- Pray for one another to have a deep love for Christ and high honor of the Lord Jesus in our hearts now and forever more.
- Pray for our church to be a community that reflects the priorities of the Kingdom of God, one that knows the Word and the Heart of God.
- Pray for the churches in Singapore to have a stronger witness in Singapore and beyond in the days to come.