

Simon of Cyrene Notes

Mark 15:21-32

Simon of _____

- We are told his name, where he is from, and the names of his children.
- Cyrene is a Greek colony on the Northeastern coast of modern day Libya in North Africa, 900 miles from Jerusalem.
- Simon is a _____ name.
- He is the father of Alexander and Rufus.

Simon's arrival

- The Jews were supposed to go to Jerusalem for several during the year.
- Because the Jews were so scattered, a trip to Jerusalem was not always feasible.
- For some it was a once in a _____ event.
- Simon may have dreamed of going to Jerusalem for several years.

Simon's agenda

- There are things he wanted to see and experience.
- There was a new Temple, Herod's Temple.
- He had to visit the moneychangers to exchange his Greek coins for Jewish currency.
- He went to the Temple vendors to purchase a _____ lamb.
- He would pray over the lamb and sacrifice it.
- He had to find a place to roast it for the Passover ceremony.
- Simon became a _____ to the death of THE Lamb of God.
- As an innocent bystander, his life was changed _____.

Simon's appointment

- Jesus was forced to walk from the center of the city to where He would be crucified.
- The route was not the shortest, because it would discourage any would-be insurrectionist or messiahs.
- As Simon is walking into Jerusalem, he sees three men carrying huge beams of wood, being whipped by Roman soldiers.
- He thinks these are criminals headed out of town to be crucified.
- Jesus is bleeding, exhausted, and struggling with the weight and the walk to Golgotha.

- Physically Jesus hasn't eaten since the _____ supper with His disciples.
- Jesus endured stress that caused Him to sweat great drops of blood
- He suffered repeated beatings and a Roman scourging that left His back torn and bleeding.
- He hasn't slept.
- Isaiah 53 tells us "surely He has borne our grief and carried our sorrows." He is carrying every one of our _____.
- This physically exhausted Jesus fell in front of Simon. A chance occurrence or a divine appointment?

Simon's encounter

- _____ to carry Jesus' cross.
 - No Roman would carry a cross.
 - It was the law when a Roman soldier laid their sword blade on your shoulder; you were required to do what they asked.
 - As soon as Simon touched the bloody wood, he would be ceremonially _____ and unable to enter the temple to present his Passover lamb.
 - Simon was exactly where he should be. It was a divine _____.
 - There are times when we think we are in the wrong place at the wrong time, but God is in it.
 - God is intent on working everything together for our good (Romans 8:28).
 - Simon's intention was to go to Jerusalem; instead, he encountered Jesus.
- _____
 - We can speculate that Simon knew nothing about Jesus.
 - Jesus had been silent before the Sanhedrin and before Pilate, but He chose to preach a short sermon to the women crying for Him.
 - Jesus told them they should truly weep for the misery that would be brought upon them and their children for their _____ of the Savior God had sent.
- _____
 - Can you imagine that Simon not only carried that cross beam to the top of Golgotha, but that he joined the crowd that stood by the cross and observed the events of the next hours?

- Golgotha means Place of a _____.
 - Golgotha was outside the city. It was a small mound on a hill well suited for public executions.
 - Jesus is now crucified (Mark 15:23-24).
 - _____ was the most hideous punishment possible.
 - It was a political testament and a criminal punishment.
 - It was a deterrent against all would-be liberators and blasphemers.
 - Crucifixion was all about torture, agony, and humiliation.
 - To get a breath Jesus would have to push up his full weight on the nail that pierced His feet.
 - The inscription of the charge against him read, “The _____ of the Jews” (vs. 26).
 - The placard was carried in front of the procession stated the crime of those being crucified.
 - Simon may have wondered about this man whose cross he had carried.
 - Jesus was crucified between two robbers.
 - Jesus was put to death because to the threat of rebellion and insurrection.
 - The Temple authorities cheered His execution because He threatened their status quo.
 - The nails and blood loss didn’t kill the crucifixion victim; it was the inability to _____.
 - Simon may have realized that he was viewing the supreme sacrifice, the Lamb of God, who willingly laid down His life for our sins.
- _____
 - I would think that no one who witnessed Jesus paying the ultimate price and suffering the ultimate amount of pain and shame would not have been profoundly _____.
 - Mark wrote his Gospel to Roman _____ in Rome.
 - We think that his readers knew these two men and they were members of the Christian community in Rome.

Conclusions

- Simon literally took up Jesus’ cross and _____ it for a while.
- We believe that Simon’s life was _____ through his encounter with the dying Savior.
- Are you trusting in Jesus, and Jesus alone for your salvation?

- Are you bearing the Lord's cross and following Him?
- Warren Wiersbe writes this about taking up the cross of Christ, "This means to be identified with Him in surrender, suffering, and ."
- We are called daily to put aside _____ agenda, and to carry the cross of Christ.
- We all have allowed things to creep into our life that are not pleasing to the Lord.
- We all are guilty of pursuing our own agenda rather than following Him whole heartedly.