

## **Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 2008: Mark: Clues For All To See: 15:33-47**

### **The game of cludo is famous.....**

Clues are deliberately left.....so that players may discover.....villain \*\*\*\*\*  
The cross is that place.....where God delib left clues.....sinners may discover a Saviour

### **On the cross of Calvary.....God was at work.....**

And for those who care to look.....The clues revealing His involvement are several

#### **Clue One: THE DARKNESS**

#### **Mark 15:33**

At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.

- **The sixth.....was 12 noon making the ninth 3.00pm**  
Three hours of darkness .....

**Only God could do that.....**

and His timing is significant

- **Remember that all this is taking place during....Passover**

A feast when.....remembered.....that a lamb had been sacrificed....so that death  
And you may also recall.....that the death of the first born was number 10 of

#### **But does anyone know what plague number 9 was ??? 3 days**

**God is again at work.....visiting darkness.....before the first born dies for the sins**

#### ***Clue from History***

#### **CLUE TWO: That cry from the cross.....15:34**

*And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"—  
which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

**Of all the clues.....this is the One that Jesus→God the Son.....made so obvious**

**It is the first line of Psalm 22**

**A psalm written 900.....that gives specific details.....about this crucifixion**

- **To my mind this**....most obvious clue of all.....that God was at work here  
**Yet** it was the one shown to be so easily missed

**Some thought He cried out for Elijah.....**Cried out for a drink  
They all heard the words.....but they missed out on the message

***Clue from Prophecy***

**THIRD CLUE: The tearing of the curtain      15:38**

*The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.*

**Simultaneous** with His death.....this thick veil....hung in the Temple to separate....was ripped....from top to bottom...→**80 foot**

**By this act....**the holy of holies: The place where the sacrifice for atonement was offered      Was revealed to all

**And it was obviously no the act of man**

**God letting His people know**...that the perfect sacrifice that ends all....offered up & **And when did it happen ????**

***Clue from the Law***

**FOURTH CLUE: The Testimony of a Tough Gentile      15:39**

*And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"*

- **To be a Centurion.....**was to have a position of authority.....that you earned  
**This** Centurion had walked alongside Jesus down the avenue of pain

**He responded to the clues He saw**  
**The final cry of Jesus.....The way Jesus died**

**This tough nut of a Gentile.....**saw those clues and proclaimed "Surely this man was  
And in so doing.....His words become....**Another clue for us....**Of God at work

- **A clue missed again** by those who should have seen it

**That's the irony here.....**A Gentile sees.....what the religious Jews refused

***Clue from the Gentiles***

## **THE FIFTH CLUE: The involvement of Joseph 43**

*Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.*

**Coming straight** after the testimony of a Gentile.....God shows us that not **all Religious leaders.....are blind to the truth**

- **Joseph was a member of the Sanhedrin....as was Nicodemus**  
Both were in opposition to the council's decision.....Both were disciples  
**And with great courage....Joseph's asks for the body**

**How awesome a clue to God being at work this is.....That 2 members of**

***Clue from the Jews***

**This then leads in to the final clue**

## **SIXTH CLUE: Buried in a special tomb 15:46**

*So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.*

- **In the normal course of things**.....a crucified man....was not allowed  
**So** for Jesus to be buried in a tomb such as this.....was not only the fulfilment...miracle

**An Obvious Clue**....that God is at work.....**PREPARING** for what will happen next

**The resurrection.....was enhanced by the tomb from which he was raised**

***The great Escape artist***...Houdini.....knew the import....of people seeing how diff  
So everything he added....chains...handcuffs...sack.....**AIMED** at proving how amazing

- **The tomb that Jesus was buried in**.....was in an open place...Not hidden  
**It was a** cave with one opening....and a channel along which.....  
It could be easily sealed.....Easily guarded

**God prepared that tomb.....for the Resurrection**  
**That it was ready for** Jesus to be placed into it before sunset....Yet another clue

***Clue for the future***

- **To see such clues**.....in this record of the crucifixion....is nothing less than we should expect

**God calls us to accept the reality of who Jesus is...BY Faith**  
His death and.....by faith  
To commit to following Him.....by Faith

**But it's no blind faith**

**He also gives us reasons to believe.....**  
Clues about His existence....His presence.....Clues about His love

**Even before we became Christians**.....God was a work.....leaving clues....

**And since we have believed**.....He has continued to show us.....everyday  
**Signs of His presence**...His power...his working on our behalf

**An unexpected blessing**.....Help when most needed....**A coincidental** happening  
**God's ongoing clues....pointing to Himself....Esp for us**

- **And also God uses us....**our lives and testimonies....our loving acts  
**As clues for others**....that He lives.....and cares for them

**You and I are part of God's clue package to the World.....**  
**He now lives in us.....**So that others will know....

That there is a Saviour

