

# **Mark** | the way of the cross

## ***He Breathed His Last***

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Mark 15:33-39

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**Introduction:** Jesus says: "Follow me." But how? Not by following a set of rules, but by being caught up in good news. The story of Jesus, as the gospel of Mark tells it, is the story of good news and a new way. A better way. To be "on the way" with Jesus is let the good news have its way in every dimension of our lives. The six weeks before Easter (called "Lent") is a traditional time to "repent and believe the good news" (Mark 1:15). Now our study of Mark's account comes to its climax, and we learn that the way of the cross is the way of life. Even here Jesus invites us: "Follow me."

**Review:** How can a "nudge" be an important step in a person's struggle for faith?

**Read:** Mark 15:33-39

**Prayer:** Father, thank you that the crucifixion was marked by two significant events, one for the land and one for the temple. Amen.

### ***Discussion:***

1. What was important about darkness coming over the "whole land"?
2. Why did Jesus cry out "forsaken"? What did that mean for us? Explain.
3. Was the reference to Elijah more mockery or something more/different?
4. Important: What did the curtain being "torn in two" signify? (See Hebrews 10:29-20)
5. The centurion's words end the report on the crucifixion. Is this surprising? Explain.

**Application:** This week we can cry out "forgiven" in response to Jesus.

**Prayer:** Father, thank you that we can look to the cross with gratitude that we can enter the Most Holy Place without fear by the blood of Jesus. Amen.