

Time Audit Chronicles: The Passion Narrative

(Mark 14-15)

Prologue: The Path to the Cross

The Presswood family sat together in the living room, the weight of the evening drawing them closer as they reflected on the powerful events of Mark 14-15. Ariel had been reading through the Passion Narrative—Jesus’ final moments before His crucifixion—and had so many questions. Alice, holding Mr. Fluffernutter, was quietly listening, sensing the solemnity of the story.

“Daddy,” Ariel began, her voice thoughtful, “why did Jesus have to go through so much suffering? He was the Son of God—why didn’t He just stop it from happening?”

Ryan took a deep breath, his voice tender. “That’s a question many people wrestle with, Ariel. Jesus’ suffering and death were necessary to fulfill God’s plan of salvation. Through His suffering, Jesus took on the weight of our sins and reconciled us to God. It wasn’t because Jesus wanted to suffer—it was because He loved us so much that He was willing to endure pain and rejection to save us. His suffering was the fulfillment of prophecy, showing the depth of God’s love and the price that was paid for our salvation.”

Ariel nodded slowly. “So, Jesus’ suffering wasn’t pointless—it was a sacrifice to bring us back to God?”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Let’s use the Time Audit Machine to go back and see the events of the Passion Narrative, from the Last Supper to Gethsemane, and finally, His trial and crucifixion. Each part of the story is deeply significant and shows us how much Jesus loved us, even when it meant facing unimaginable pain.”

The Journey Begins: The Last Supper and the Institution of the Lord’s Supper (Mark 14:22-25)

The Time Audit Machine hummed, and with a flash of light, the family found themselves in a room with Jesus and His disciples. The atmosphere was somber, and the disciples were gathered around a table for their final meal together before the events of the coming days. Jesus broke the bread, blessing it, and shared the cup with them.

“This is the Last Supper,” Ryan said softly. “This was the meal that Jesus shared with His disciples before His arrest and crucifixion. It was a time of teaching and preparing them for what was to come.”

Ariel looked around the room, her heart heavy with the understanding of what was about to unfold. “Why did Jesus break the bread and pass the cup? What did that mean?”

Ryan smiled gently. “At the Last Supper, Jesus instituted the **Lord’s Supper**—a new covenant between God and His people. The bread represented His body, which would be broken for them, and the cup represented His blood, which would be poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus was telling His disciples—and us—that through His sacrifice, we would have forgiveness and a restored relationship with God.”

Ariel understood. “So, when we take communion, we remember what Jesus did for us on the cross. We remember His sacrifice.”

“That’s right,” Ryan said. “The Lord’s Supper is a reminder of Jesus’ love and sacrifice. Every time we partake in it, we look back to the cross and forward to the day He will return. It’s a way for us to stay connected to the meaning of His death and to continually remember the price He paid for our salvation.”

The Prayer in Gethsemane: Jesus’ Struggle and Surrender *(Mark 14:32-42)*

The scene shifted as the family found themselves in a dark, quiet garden—**Gethsemane**. The air was cool, and the only sound was the rustling of leaves as Jesus knelt and prayed, His disciples asleep nearby.

“This is Gethsemane,” Ryan said quietly. “This is where Jesus went to pray before He was arrested. It was a place of great personal struggle for Him, as He faced the reality of what was to come.”

Ariel looked at Jesus, kneeling and praying. “Jesus knew He was about to face something terrible, and He asked God if there was another way. He was struggling with what was about to happen.”

“Yes,” Ryan said, “Jesus prayed earnestly, asking if there was another way for God’s plan to be fulfilled. But even in His deep sorrow, He surrendered to the Father’s will. He said, ‘Not what I will, but what You will.’ (Mark 14:36). Jesus, fully human and fully divine, faced the agony of knowing He would bear the sins of the world, but He still chose to obey God’s will.”

Ariel could see the pain on Jesus’ face. “Jesus was in such anguish that He even sweated drops of blood. He didn’t want to suffer, but He was willing to do it for us.”

“Yes,” Ryan said, “Jesus showed us what true obedience and love look like—choosing to follow God’s will even when it meant great personal cost. He didn’t run from the pain; He embraced it for our sake.”

The Arrest and Trial: Betrayal and Rejection *(Mark 14:43-65)*

The scene shifted once again, and the family found themselves in the midst of the chaos of Jesus’ arrest. Judas, one of Jesus’ disciples, betrayed Him with a kiss, and the soldiers came to arrest Jesus. The disciples scattered, and Jesus was led away to stand trial before the religious authorities.

“The betrayal by Judas was one of the most painful moments for Jesus,” Ryan said. “He had walked with Judas, taught him, loved him, and yet Judas betrayed Him for thirty pieces of silver.”

Ariel’s eyes filled with sorrow. “Judas had been with Jesus for so long. How could he betray Him like that?”

“Sin makes people do terrible things, Ariel,” Ryan said gently. “Judas was driven by greed and disillusionment, and he chose to betray Jesus. But even in that, God’s plan was being fulfilled.”

As Jesus stood before the high priests, He was accused of blasphemy for claiming to be the Messiah. Despite the false accusations and the mockery, Jesus remained silent.

Ariel looked at Jesus, standing alone, surrounded by hostile voices. “Jesus didn’t fight back or defend Himself. He just stood there in silence.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Jesus knew that His mission was not to defend Himself but to fulfill the will of the Father. The trial and the mockery were part of the suffering He had to endure in order to save humanity.”

The Crucifixion: The Ultimate Sacrifice *(Mark 15:16-39)*

The family then found themselves at Golgotha, the place of Jesus’ crucifixion. The cross stood tall, and the crowd jeered, but Jesus, nailed to the cross, hung there in agonizing pain.

Ryan’s voice grew solemn. “This is the moment of Jesus’ greatest suffering. The physical pain of the cross was indescribable, but the emotional and spiritual pain—taking on the sins of the world—was even greater. Jesus, the sinless Son of God, was being punished for the sins of humanity.”

Ariel was quiet, her heart heavy with understanding. “Jesus died on the cross for us. He took our place so we wouldn’t have to face the punishment for our sins.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “On the cross, Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice for sin. His blood was poured out for the forgiveness of our sins, so that anyone who believes in Him can have eternal life. Jesus’ death was the fulfillment of all the Old Testament sacrifices. He was the Lamb of God, taking away the sin of the world.”

As Jesus breathed His last, He cried out, “It is finished!” (Mark 15:37). The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, symbolizing that the barrier between God and humanity had been removed.

Ariel looked at the torn curtain, her voice filled with awe. “The curtain was torn? That means we can now come directly to God—because of what Jesus did for us.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “The torn curtain represents the removal of the separation between us and God. Through Jesus’ death, we now have access to God, and we can approach Him with confidence, knowing that our sins have been forgiven.”

Reflection: The Power of Jesus' Sacrifice

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, and the family sat in quiet reflection. Ariel was still processing everything she had seen, while Alice continued to hug Mr. Fluffernutter, imagining that Jesus was with them.

“Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross was so powerful,” Ariel said quietly. “He didn’t deserve any of it—He was completely innocent. But He chose to die for us anyway.”

“Yes,” Ryan said, “Jesus’ love for us is beyond our understanding. He willingly gave up His life so that we could be forgiven and have eternal life with God. His sacrifice shows us what true love is—selfless, sacrificial love.”

Ariel smiled. “I want to love like Jesus—putting others first and giving all I have for them.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “That’s the heart of the gospel—to love others as Christ has loved us. And the good news is that Jesus’ sacrifice didn’t end with His death. It was only the beginning of the new life He offers us through His resurrection.”

Alice looked up from her play. “Jesus is alive! He came back to life!”

Ryan smiled, “Yes, Alice, He did. And because He lives, we have hope, and we can live with Him forever.”

Takeaway: The Power of Jesus' Sacrifice and Resurrection

In Mark 14-15, we see the powerful events of Jesus’ Passion Narrative: the institution of the Lord’s Supper, His time of prayer and surrender in Gethsemane, His unjust trial, and His ultimate sacrifice on the cross. Through His suffering and death, Jesus fulfilled prophecy, took on the sins of the world, and opened the way for humanity to be reconciled with God. His sacrifice was not just a historical event—it is the foundation of our faith and the path to eternal life. Jesus’ death on the cross was the ultimate act of love, and His resurrection proves that He has triumphed over death, offering us new life and hope.