We must remember that Mark always has two reasons for including small details in his narrative. First, anything he writes is included because it happened. Mark is not making this up. (See below, question #2.) Second, however, anything he writes is included in order to teach us about Jesus. Mark is not 'preachy' — he does not do much direct explanation or exposition or moralizing. Rather, he selects facts and events in such a way as to drive home the meaning of the work of Christ. So we should constantly ask: "Why did Mark include that? What is he trying to tell us here?"

Look at the "mocking" of Christ. Read verses 17-20, 29-32, and also 14:65. a) For what particular things is Jesus mocked? b) What do you think Mark is showing us in the account of the mocking?

Read verse 21. What does this interesting little note about 'Alexander and Rufus' tell us about a) Mark's readers, and b) the trustworthiness of the account?

What is Mark trying to get across about human nature in these descriptions of the mocking, spitting, beating?

<u>Read</u> Romans 8:7. a) Do you think that Paul exaggerates here when he says we are all naturally hostile to God? b) How have you seen this natural human enmity to God in normal human behavior? In yourself?

Some have called verse 34 "the most important and terrible question ever asked." a) What does the question tell us about what Jesus is doing? b) What does it tell us about what the Father was doing? c) What is the answer to Jesus' question?

How can this cry help you when you feel alone and forsaken (even by God)?

What is the meaning of the tearing of the veil (verse 38)?

DIGGING DEEPER

SPOKEN WORD Mark 15:16-16:8

They Crucified Him - Alistair Begg - 46:59 (You Tube)

The Death of Jesus - Alistair Begg - 41:27 (YouTube)

The Witnesses- Alistair Begg - 32:12

50 - A Price We Could NEVER Pay, An Example We CAN Follow - Larry Osborne -49:20 Sermon Notes and Discussion Guide

51 - The Making Of The Perfect Gift - 51:45 Sermon Notes and Discussion Guide

52 - The Entire Bible in 12 Verses - Christopher Hilken - 54:05 Sermon Notes and Discussion Guide

54 - It's Never Too Late - Larry Osborne - 50:02 Sermon Notes and Discussion Guide