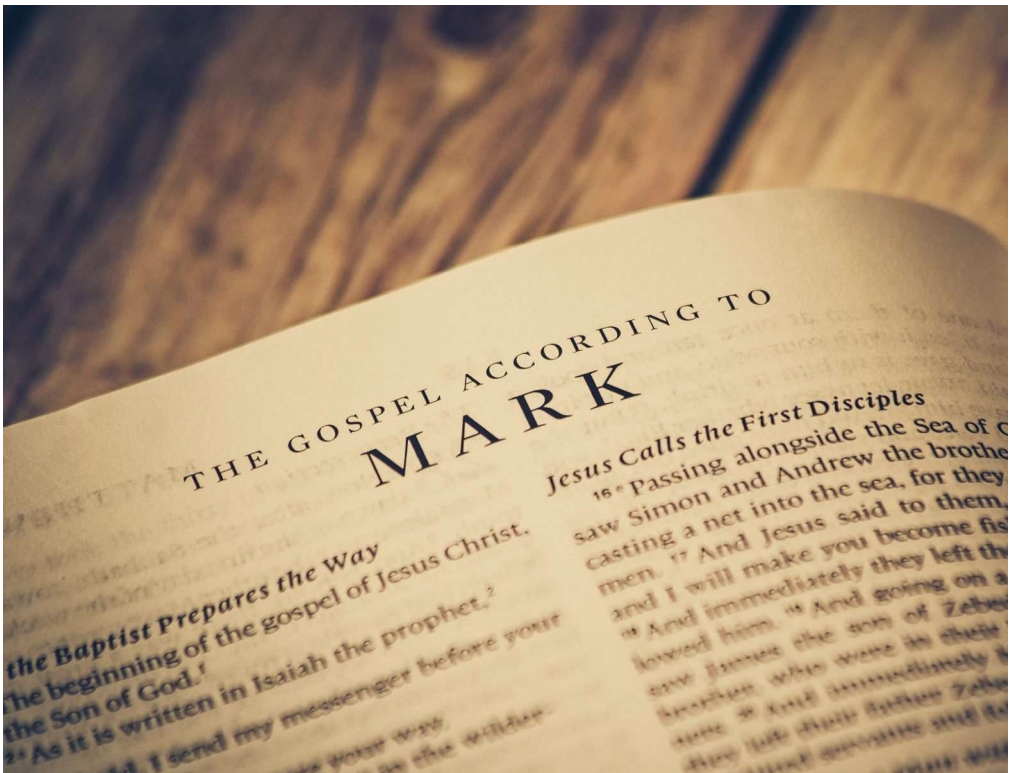


Let's Worship God

2nd-7th December 2019

Mark



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

Jesus Calls the First Disciples
16: Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon, who were casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. He said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishermen, who will catch men."

Monday - Mark 12:28-34 - The Greatest Commandment

One of the teachers of the law is standing there listening to the answers that Jesus is giving to the Pharisees, Herodians, and Sadducees. He is an honest man and realises how wisely Jesus is answering these men, so he comes to ask a question. Unlike with His other questioners, Jesus gives him a direct answer. Those who truly come to God for understanding will get it.

Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy 6:4-5. These verses sum up everything the Jews believe about their duty to God. When God is given first place in our lives, we don't have room for idols or temptations. If we love God wholeheartedly, we will want to do what God says. The heart of Christianity is not a list of do's and don'ts, but a love for God that makes us want to live for Him. Without this love for God, nothing good will be done - our motives will be wrong, and we can't pretend to love God for very long.

Jesus now talks about our love to others. We are to love God better than we love ourselves, but we are to love our neighbours as we love ourselves, not thinking too little or too much of them.

The scribe realises that Jesus has answered well and says so. Jesus tells him that he is very near to the kingdom of God. We never hear if this honest scribe believed. There have always been many who see and know so much of the truth but live and die without believing.

Questions

1. What question does the teacher of the law ask Jesus?
2. Why is love for God the greatest commandment?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we love God wholeheartedly and our neighbour as ourselves.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father" Mark 10:29a

Praise: Psalm 96 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

Jesus Calls the First Disciples
16: Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he
saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon
casting their nets into the sea, for they were fish

Tuesday - Mark 12:35-44 - Hypocrisy and Sacrifice

Now it is Jesus' turn to ask questions of the scribes and Pharisees. He knows that they have very carefully taught the people to look for a great military Messiah, one who is directly descended from King David. The one thing they haven't taught the people is that the Messiah, besides being the Son of David, is also the Son of God. So Jesus asks the Pharisees why David calls his son Lord, as though his son is greater than him. The only answer to this question is that David's son must also be God.

Jesus then condemns the Pharisees and scribes for their hypocrisy. They know their Bible very well, but they never put it into practice. They love all the attention they get as spiritual leaders, and they love money, but they don't love the Lord. It's very easy for people who have grown up in churches to fall into this same kind of hypocrisy. It's also easy for those who are new Christians not to talk about their faith for fear of looking like a hypocrite. We need to show the world that there are consistent Christians.

At the Temple, the widow makes her offering, unseen except by One. Jesus doesn't deny that the rich give much, He just says that the widow gives still more. Theirs is a generous contribution; hers is a true sacrifice. The Lord measures giving, not by what we give, but by what we keep for ourselves, and the widow keeps nothing but gives all.

Questions

1. Why does David call his son Lord?
2. Why did the widow give more than the rich people?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would live our lives as consistent Christians.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father" Mark 10:29a

Praise: Psalm 97 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

Jesus Calls the First Disciples
16^a Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he
Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon
into the sea, for they were fish
said to them, "Follow

Wednesday - Mark 13:1-8 - Warnings

Jesus' disciples take great pride in the Temple, but Jesus is looking at the hearts of the people. So, He begins to warn the disciples of many things. Jesus prophesies to the disciples about what will happen when Jerusalem is destroyed, what the life of the Church is going to be like, and what will happen at the end of time.

Sixty-nine to seventy years after Jesus' death was a very turbulent time. There were four emperors in one year, many people claimed to be the Messiah, wars broke out everywhere, and Roman armies marched to Jerusalem to lay siege and destroy it. Because of Jesus' prophecies that we have here, when the Christians saw and heard about these things, they fled Jerusalem. Not one Christian was left in the city when the Roman armies arrived.

But besides prophecies about the destruction of Jerusalem, Jesus is telling the disciples what the Church should expect from this world. There will always be false religious leaders trying to deceive people. There will always be persecution from those who hate Christ and hate His people. And there will always be times of political upheaval and struggling. The Church is not to worry about these things, but to trust that God, who is in control, will take care of them.

Questions

1. What were the disciples so proud of?
2. What are some of the things Jesus prophesies are going to happen?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God has promised to take care of His Church.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father" Mark 10:29a

Praise: Psalm 98 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
MARK

Jesus Calls the First Disciples
16 Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon, who were mending their nets. He called them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

Thursday - Mark 13:9-13 - Persecution and Promises

Jesus wants His disciples to know that Christians will suffer for following Him. Christians will be hated by men because unsaved men hate Jesus and anyone that reminds them of Jesus. Even families will betray and hate those in it who are Christians. The religious leaders will persecute Christians, and the political leaders will use their power against Jesus' followers. None of these attitudes have changed in the 2,000 years since Christ spoke these words. The cost of following Christ is still suffering and persecution.

Jesus, though, gives all Christians some amazing promises to comfort them when they are persecuted. He promises that God's kingdom will continue, spread, and prosper despite persecution. The enemies of God cannot stop His building His Church. The sufferings of Christians will give them opportunities to explain to others why they believe in Jesus. Jesus also promises that the Holy Spirit will give them the words to say to others. This doesn't mean we shouldn't study what we believe, so we can explain it to others. It means that when we don't have time to think through what we are going to say, we don't have to worry because God will give us the right words. The Christian must be faithful right to the end; but if he is a true Christian, he will be faithful because God keeps him faithful (Romans 14:4). In the end there is everlasting happiness which will more than make up for their suffering.

Questions

1. Why will people hate Christians?
2. Who will give us the words to say to those who don't believe in Jesus?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for Christians suffering persecution in other countries.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father" Mark 10:29a

Praise: Psalm 99 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

Jesus Calls the First Disciples
16 Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee,
Jesus called to him Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon and Andrew the sea, for they were fishing.

Friday - Mark 13:14-23 - Signs of Destruction

Jesus has been telling His disciples what life as a Christian is going to be like. Now He is telling them specific things that will happen and what they should do in forty years when the Romans march on Jerusalem. The abomination of desolation refers to Jerusalem, the holy city, surrounded and destroyed by pagan Romans. When this happens, the Christians must flee the city. There is no other option to avoid God's judgement. They can't wait or go back to take anything, they must just go as quickly as possible. They are to pray that God will make their escape easier. This is exactly what the Church does when the Romans come. They flee Jerusalem and not one of them is left in the city.

Jesus then tells His disciples that a time of unparalleled destruction will come. God will, in His mercy, cut short this time of Roman judgement on the land, so His people are not destroyed.

Jesus has given them instructions for saving their lives, but now He gives them instructions for protecting their souls. They are not to be deceived by those who pretend to be the Messiah or pretend to be sent from Him. These people are so tricky that, if it were possible, they could deceive even Christians, but our great comfort is that God says this is not possible.

Questions

1. Who marched on Jerusalem to destroy it?
2. What did the Christians do when they saw the Romans coming?
3. Is it possible for God's people to be deceived?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God takes care of His people.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father" Mark 10:29a

Praise: Psalm 100 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
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Jesus Calls the First Disciples
16 Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee
Simon and Andrew the brother of St
into the sea, for they were f
said to them, "Foll

Saturday - Mark 13:24-31 - The Power of God

This passage can be quite difficult to understand. Some people think that it still refers to the destruction of Jerusalem. The sun and stars falling from the sky refer to kings and emperors losing their positions of power. The coming of the Son of man refers to God's judgement on Israel through the Romans and His protection of His people. This seems to fit with Jesus saying that the present generation will not die before these things happen. However, other people believe that this passage refers to Jesus coming again at the end of time to judge the world and take His people to heaven.

Either way you understand this passage, it paints a very powerful picture of Jesus as the ultimate Ruler of the world. Jesus is living at that moment very humbly on earth and soon He will be killed, but the time is coming when He will be exalted and sitting at God's right hand. Remembering this must have helped the disciples as they suffer for what they believe. They know that they serve a Saviour who is ruling the world with all power and understanding, and who will come and deal with their enemies one day. This passage also teaches us how much God takes care of His people. In the midst of His judgement He does not forget those whom He loves, and He guards and protects them as His special treasure.

Questions

1. Why would these verses comfort the disciples?
2. What do these verses tell us about God?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father" Mark 10:29a

Praise: Psalm 101 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced for the RP Global Alliance
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If you have any queries please contact - admin@rpglobalalliance.org