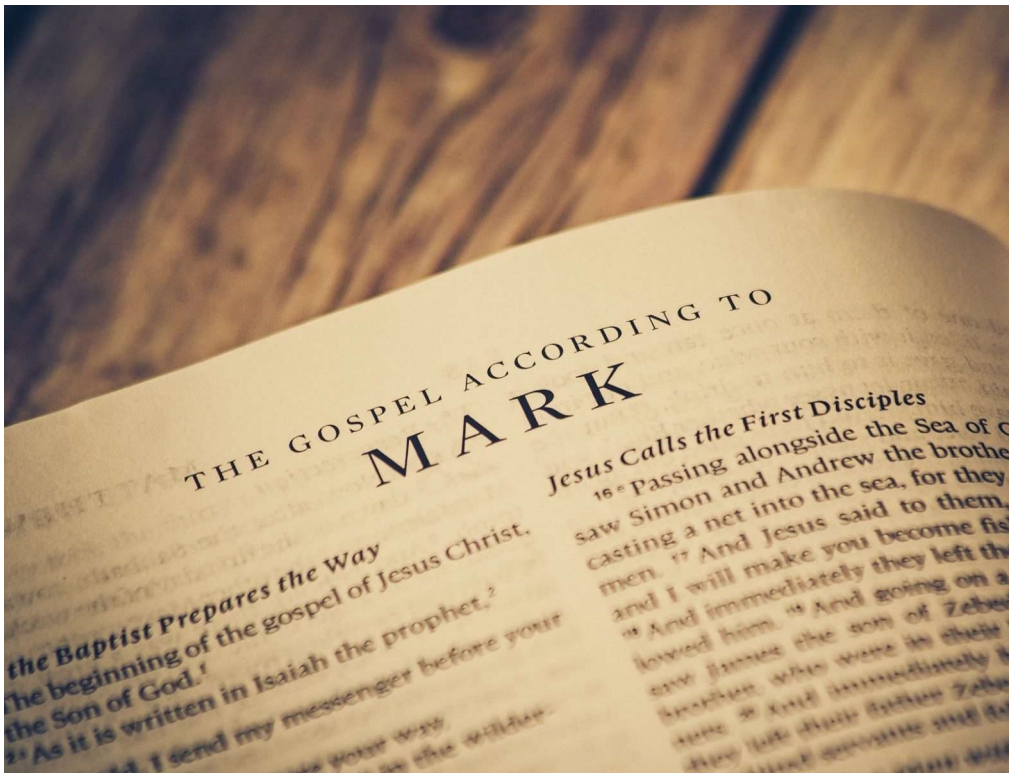


Let's Worship God

16th-21st December 2019

Mark



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

Jesus Calls the First Disciples
16^a Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he
saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon,
and he called them to him, and he said to them, "Follow
me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Monday - Mark 14:43-52 - Arrest in the Night

Judas has left Jesus and the disciples while they are still in the upper room. He has found out where the group is going to spend the night, waits till he thinks they are sleeping, and brings his group of strongmen to arrest Jesus. He wants the whole arrest to happen very smoothly, so he can be sure of getting his money. So, he brings men with weapons in case the fishermen start causing trouble, and he is careful to identify who Jesus is. Judas, knowing who Jesus is and seeing what Jesus does, still turns Him over to be killed.

We find out from John 18:10 and Luke 22:51 that Peter, wanting to show that he is going to keep his promise to stand by Jesus, cuts off the high priest's servant's ear, and Jesus heals it. Jesus tells those in the Garden that He is innocent, but they are treating Him like a criminal. They have come to take Him secretly at night because of their fear of the crowds even though Jesus would have been willing to answer their accusations in public. Their weapons are unnecessary because Jesus must go with them to fulfil the Scriptures. Everything is part of God's plan, under His control, and working for His glory.

The disciples all run away. They are willing to fight with Jesus, but they are afraid to be arrested with Him. This should teach us humility, patience with other Christians, and remind us that Jesus knows what it's like to be disappointed by those He loves.

Questions

1. Why does Judas bring a crowd of men?
2. Why were these men unnecessary?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's control of every detail of our lives.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life." Mark 10:30b

Praise: Psalm 108 - 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 14:53-65 - Trial in the Middle of the Night

Late at night Jesus is taken before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish religious and political court, where the high priest is judge. Even though the men of this court have already decided that Jesus must die, it's illegal for them to execute Jesus. Only the Roman authorities can do that. So, they have to come up with a religious charge to convince the Jewish people that Jesus should die, so the people won't riot, and a political charge to convince the Roman authorities that Jesus should die. So, they use their money to buy lots of false witnesses who bring all sorts of slander against Jesus. There's just one problem - their stories never agree. They can't even get Jesus' claim to destroy the temple and raise it up in three days (which refers to His death and resurrection) straight. The high priest tries to goad Jesus into saying something, anything, that they can use against Him. But Jesus sets us an amazing example of patience and prudence when surrounded with slander and misrepresentation.

Finally, the high priest puts Jesus under oath and asks Him whether He is the Christ, the Promised One, the Son of God. Without any hesitation, Jesus replies, "I am." This is the holy name of God, and it is Jesus' declaration to the world, in clear and unmistakable terms, that He is God. No one can have any doubts about who Jesus says He is now. He warns the Sanhedrin that He will return one day in judgement, but they ignore this warning and condemn Jesus to death for blasphemy - claiming to be God.

Questions

1. Why couldn't the Sanhedrin put Jesus to death?
2. What did the high priest ask Jesus?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life." Mark 10:30b

Praise: Psalm 109 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Mark 14:66-72 - Denial

Peter has returned from running away and is sitting by the fire outside the house of the high priest. Jesus has warned Peter that he will deny Him, but Peter has ignored this and instead of humbly watching and praying against this temptation, he walks right into it. Instead of staying close to Jesus, he is keeping at a distance, and it is unclear who he is and why he is there. The closer we are to Christ the farther we are from denying Him. But besides keeping his distance from Jesus, Peter surrounds himself with enemies of Jesus. He isn't necessarily in danger of being arrested, only in being made fun of by a servant girl. There is no temptation too small to overcome us unless we watch and pray in humility. So Peter fails at the most important moment. Afraid of the opinions of others, afraid of suffering, he refuses to stand with Christ, and once he has started denying his Lord, it is easy enough for him to grow in that denial. But then, by the grace of God, the cock crows, the Lord Jesus Christ looks at Peter (Luke 22:61), and Peter's mouth is stopped as he realises what he is doing. His repentance is quick and wholehearted, and we read of his forgiveness in John 21:15-19. It is easy to condemn Peter, but by running away all Jesus' disciples denied Him. Peter just did in a very open way what we do everytime we refuse to live as a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, and we rarely repent as quickly as Peter did.

Questions

1. What things might Peter have done so as not to deny Jesus?
2. What happened to Peter when the cock crowed?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would live as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life." Mark 10:30b

Praise: Psalm 110 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
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Thursday - Mark 15:1-15 - The Murderer Set Free, and the Innocent Killed

The Sanhedrin can convince the people that Jesus is a blasphemer and should be put to death, now they set out to convince Pilate, the Roman governor, that Jesus is a threat to the Roman government and setting Himself up as a rival king to Caesar. Just like before, Jesus patiently and quietly suffers under the false accusations, but does not hide from Pilate or anyone who He claims to be.

Pilate knows the Jews are just envious of Jesus, so he tries to think of a way out of the situation. He offers the mob a choice of releasing either Barabbas or Jesus. Barabbas is a revolutionary murderer who led a revolt against Rome. He is popular with the people despite being a troublemaker and murderer. But just to make sure that the crowd chooses the right man, the priests circulate all their different accusations against Jesus through the mob. The crowd decides to let a murderer go free and crucify Jesus, and Pilate, knowing Jesus to be innocent, goes along with this in his desire to keep the Jews happy. Crucifixion is the Roman means of death for a slave or foreigner, and to the Jews a public sign that the one who died is under the wrath and curse of God. Christians have all been in the position of Barabbas - guilty and deserving of death, but set free because Jesus died in our place.

Questions

1. What does Pilate think about Jesus?
2. Why did the crowd pick Barabbas?
3. How are Christians like Barabbas?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Jesus died as our Substitute.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.” Mark 10:30b

Praise: Psalm 111 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
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low me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Friday - Mark 15:16-20 - Humiliation

Jesus' death is to be many things. It is bloody because blood is a symbol of life, because without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin, and this is the sacrifice that is given to pay for our souls. It is painful - the worst death both physically and spiritually as God forsook Him. Jesus' death is the shameful death of slaves and evil criminals. It is also the cursed death of one under God's wrath and displeasure.

We see the humiliation of Christ in the soldiers of Pilate mocking Him. These soldiers probably hate Jews, and they are loyal only to Caesar. Here is a man put in amongst them who is accused of being a rival king to Caesar. So, they mock Him. They despise His authority and do whatever they can to humiliate Him and cause Him pain. Why does Jesus suffer this shame and humiliation? For us. He wears the crown of thorns that we deserve, so we can wear a crown of glory. The crime and the shame is ours, but He takes our place, so that we might have eternal life through believing in Him. This is the amazing love and grace pictured for us in Jesus' death. Everytime someone pretends to serve the Lord Jesus, but in his heart values something or someone more, he mocks the Lord just as these soldiers do.

Questions

1. Why did Jesus' death have to be bloody?
2. Why did the soldiers mock Jesus?
3. Why did Jesus let them mock Him?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for what Christ has done on your behalf.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life." Mark 10:30b

Praise: Psalm 112 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Saturday - Mark 15:21-32 - Amazing Love

Jesus is taken to be crucified, and on the way the Roman soldiers force Simon (probably one of Jesus' followers) to carry the cross. They take Him to Golgotha, which is a hill that looks like a skull. They offer Jesus wine mixed with myrrh which will act as a drug to help the pain, but He refuses. So, with no pain killers, He is nailed in His hands and feet to the cross. The soldiers divide His clothes, not knowing that they are fulfilling ancient prophecies about the Messiah. Jesus hangs there naked, so He can clothe us with His perfect righteousness, so we will not stand naked before God. Even the sign over His head speaks truly of who He is. The crowds, soldiers, and religious leaders continue to make fun of Jesus. Yet, there is some truth in what they say. In order for Christ to save others, He cannot save Himself. The people want to see and believe, but that is not God's way of working - only after we believe can we see what we have been hiding from ourselves.

We must remember that Jesus endured all this for those who believe in Him. Through Jesus' condemnation we are declared not guilty, through His suffering we have peace, through His shame, glory, and through His death, life. The thought of Christ's love for us should make us want to live our lives as His servants who love Him wholeheartedly.

Questions

1. Why didn't Jesus drink the wine?
2. What did the sign over Jesus' head say?
3. Why couldn't Jesus save Himself?

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

"Houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life." Mark 10:30b

Praise: Psalm 113 - 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