

MARK 14-16

MAN OF
SORROWS

sermon notes and study questions



Mark 14:1-11 | ANOINTED

SERMON NOTES

Mark 14:9 ‘... wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.’

1. How can we honour Jesus?
2. Read Luke 14:1-11. Jesus calls the woman’s actions ‘beautiful’ while others are indignant. How do you account for the different interpretations of the woman’s actions?
3. How does the woman’s actions here compare to Mark 16:1? What prohibited them from anointing Jesus’ body?
4. How does this passage recall Jesus’ prediction in Mark 10:33-34?
5. How does Jesus’ treatment of the woman compare to those who rebuked her?
6. How is vs 9 fulfilled?
7. Why would Jesus want her memory to be maintained?
8. What sort of ‘gospel’ would include a memory of this woman?
9. How do you identify with this story?
10. How does ‘beauty’ conflict with ‘economic rationalism’?

Mark 14:12-31 | BLEEDING

SERMON NOTES

Mark 14:24 “This is the blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.”

1. What are some significant occasions where you might share a meal with others?

2. What is the Passover about? (Exodus 12)

3. Read Mark 14:12-31. At mealtime, what news did Jesus reveal to His disciples? (Mark 14:18)

4. How do the disciples respond?

5. How does Jesus reinterpret the Passover meal?

6. What will Jesus' death accomplish?

7. What do you make of Peter's protestations? What does it reveal about Peter?

8. Have you ever disowned or abandoned Jesus? How did it make you feel?

9. Where is forgiveness and restoration to be found?

Mark 14:32-42 | DISTRESSED

SERMON NOTES

Mark 14:36 ‘Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.’

1. How do you deal with struggles in life?

2. Read Mark 4:32-42. What inner turmoil was Jesus experiencing?

3. What was Jesus wrestling with in prayer? (for the “cup”, see Jeremiah 25:15-17)

4. What does Jesus’ prayer reveal about the cost of our redemption?

5. What did Jesus command his disciples to watch for?

6. What do you think about their response to Jesus’ command?

7. What did the arrival of the betrayer (Judas) indicate?

9. How does Jesus model prayer in the struggle with temptation?

10. In moments of trials and temptations, how might our prayers be different to Jesus? How can we grow to be more Christlike in prayer?

Mark 14:43-52 | BETRAYED

SERMON NOTES

Mark 14:50 'Then everyone deserted him and fled.'

1. Describe the pain of betrayal?
2. Read Mark 14:43-52. How does this fulfil Jesus' prediction in Mark 14:18?
3. Read Psalm 41:9. How does this passage foretell the events of Jesus' betrayal?
4. What did the arresting party fail to understand?
5. How is Mark 14:50 a fulfilment of Psalm 88:18?
6. Why was it important that Jesus be betrayed and abandoned?
7. Read Acts 1:18. What happened to Judas?
8. How is this passage befitting the Man of Sorrows?
9. How valuable is friendship? How painful is it when lost?

Mark 14:53-65 | CONDEMNED

SERMON NOTES

Mark 14:61 ‘But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”’

1. Read Mark 14:53-65. Who comes together for Jesus’ trial? Where else in Mark have these people been mentioned together before? (Mark 8:31–32; 10:32–34) Since Mark has shared some information with us already, how should we be thinking of the trial and its outcome?

2. From v55–59, what does Mark want us to know about:

- the chief priests, elders, teachers of the law? • Jesus?

3. Previously in Mark, Jesus has tried to hide who he really is (eg. Mark 1:24–25; 8:29–30), yet in v62 he speaks very openly. What do you think is different about *this* part of Mark compared to previously?

4. Jesus calls himself “the Son of Man” (v62; elsewhere in Mark), which is a reference to Daniel 7. Read Daniel 7:13–14:

- What is significant about this “Son of Man”?
- What is *wrong* about this picture, if the Son of Man is *only* a human?
- Looking back to Mark 14 – what is Jesus claiming about himself? (note the High Priest’s reaction)

5. Mark opens his Gospel with the words: “The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.” (Mark 1:1, NIV) The unjust condemnation of an innocent man is hardly good news! How is Jesus’ trial part of the “good news”?

6. Given what we know of who Jesus is from Mark so far – his clear power and authority over sickness, the demonic, even death! – why do you think Jesus lets himself be condemned here?

7. How should the answer to Q5 + 6 impact the way you live and relate to others?

Mark 14:66-72 | FORSAKEN

SERMON NOTES

Mark 14:72 'Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and cried.'

1. Have you ever let anyone down? Has anyone ever let you down?
2. Read Mark 14:66-72. What is so sad about this passage?
3. Read Mark 14:27-31. How does this provide a sobering background to vs 66 ff?
4. Compare Peter's denial at vs 68-71. How does the content and the tone of his denial change?
5. Why would Peter deny being with Jesus?
6. 'Jesus suffered much before a nail was driven into his hand.' Explain this in light of this story.
7. Read vs 72. What impact did the rooster crow have on Peter?
8. Compare this event to Peter's response to the Sanhedrin in Acts 4:8-10. How has he changed? Why?
9. Read Mark 8:38. How is this a sober warning? What would cause a person to 'be ashamed' of Jesus?
10. Have you ever failed to speak up for Jesus?

Mark 15:1-15 | TURNED OVER

SERMON NOTES

Mark 15:15 'Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified.'

1. Have you ever had to defend yourself?
2. Read Mark 15:1-15. Describe the significance and roles of the following:-

a. Chief priests ...

b. Pilate ...

c. Jesus ...

d. Barabbas ...

e. The crowd ...

3. Read Isaiah 53:7. Why is it important that prophesy like this one be fulfilled?
4. How would Jesus' silence be interpreted by Pilate? How is it interpreted by the Scriptures?
5. What role did politics play in this scenario?
6. Is Pilate satisfied with the verdict?
7. This is the pivotal moment where it is decided that Jesus be crucified. What is the evidence of an unfair trial?
8. How can you relate to Barabbas?
9. Which songs best express Jesus' death as a substitute?

Mark 15:16-32 | MOCKED

SERMON NOTES

Mark 15:32 'Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.'

1. Discuss this statement: "Jesus was crucified because of a misunderstanding."

2. Read Mark 15:16-32. What did the soldiers' actions reveal about who they think Jesus is?

3. Is Simon from Cyrene cast as a model disciple? (See also Mark 8:34) Why or why not?

4. Why would Jesus need someone to carry the cross, yet choose not to take the wine mixed with myrrh offered to him? (v23)

5. How accurate was the charge made against Jesus? (v26)

6. What is the significance of Jesus being crucified with two rebels beside him? (v27 and 32) Who's place did Jesus take? (See also Isaiah 53:12 and 1 Peter 3:18)

7. Is it possible for Jesus to save others and save himself?

8. What was the barrier stopping the religious leaders from believing that Jesus is the Messiah? Do you agree with their assessment? (v32)

9. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus did not save Himself?

Mark 11:1-11 | HAILED

SERMON NOTES

Mark 11:11 ‘Hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming
kingdom of our father
David! Hosanna in the
highest heaven!’

1. Have your expectations ever been dashed?”
2. Read Mark 11:1-11. How is this an unexpected way for the king to arrive?

3. What is the crowd’s expectation of Jesus? How was he different to the kings before him?
4. Read Psalm 118:25-29. Why is the ‘altar’ a surprising destination for ‘he who comes in the name of the LORD’? What is he expected to do there?
5. Read Zechariah 9:9-13. What will this king do?
6. How does this crowd compare to the ones who cry, ‘crucify him!’ in Mark 15:13?
7. Why would Jesus enter the temple courts?
8. What did Jesus predict would happen in Jerusalem?
(Mark 10:33-34)
9. In context to this passage, what does it mean to ask Jesus to, ‘Save!’?

Mark 15:33-47 | EXPIRED

SERMON NOTES

Mark 15:37 'With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.'

1. Have you ever witnessed a death? How did you feel? What thoughts ran through your mind?

2. Read Mark 15:33-39. What is Mark at pains to point out in this account of the crucifixion?

(Get ready to read a lot of cross-references. It may be easier to appoint these to different members of the group.)

3. Read Amos 8:9-10. How does this provide prophetic background for the cross?

4. Read Psalm 22:1-8. In what way was Jesus forsaken? What is this Psalm essentially asking God?

5. The Creed of Athanasius states that The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit are, '... co-eternal together ...' How does this foil an incorrect understanding of Jesus' words in vs 34?

6. Read Psalm 69:19-21. What role does the crowd play?

7. How does vs 38 make Hebrews 10:19-22 possible?

8. What is the significance of the confession at vs 29?

9. Discuss the richness of this portrayal of the cross.

Mark 16:1-8 | ALIVE!

SERMON NOTES

Mark 16:6 'You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.'

1. Is the resurrection of Jesus a case of expecting the unexpected?

2. Read Mark 16:1-8. What did the women set out to achieve?

3. Were they acting in line with what Jesus taught his disciples? (See Mark 9:31 and 10:33-34)

4. What do they find upon arrival at the tomb?

5. Why should they not be alarmed?

6. What evidence laid before the women that Jesus has risen?

7. How should they respond? (v7. See also Mark 14:9 and 14:28)

8. What was their actual response?

9. How does their response compare to our fear of speaking up for Jesus?

10. Whether or not we fear, what remarkable truth compels us to speak about Jesus?

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