

Mark, The End and the Beginning (Week 13)

Coming Up: *The Prodigal* class on two Wednesday nights, August 15th and 22nd, from 6:30-8:00pm in RLM2 Auditorium. Taught by Jim and Bill Putman.

- Review:**
- Jesus was rejected because He did the unexpected.
 - He chose unexpected men as disciples.
 - He attacked an unexpected target—the Jews and not the Romans, Samaritans, the tax collectors, etc.
 - Jesus was an unexpected Messiah. He was a suffering servant rather than a (humanly speaking) powerful leader.
 - He predicted an unexpected ending to Jerusalem. (see last week)
 - **Remember, it was an unexpected ending for the disciples, as well.** “You will face death...” *They would be persecuted and hated rather than be given the best seats of honor for following Jesus.*

Mark 10:37–40 (NIV) ³⁷They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.” ³⁸“You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?” ³⁹“We can,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, ⁴⁰but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.”

Outline of Mark 14

1. Jesus reveals He will face death.

- **Remember, Jesus had told them they would be persecuted.**
- Jesus in Bethany—His anointing for His death, and that He will face death.
- He has revealed this to them again and again since the Great Confession. (Mark 8:27-30)
- The result: Judas betrays Jesus.

Mark 14:8 (NIV) She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial.

The Lord’s Supper: Jesus again prophesies His own death.

Mark 14:22–26 (NIV) ²²While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.” ²³Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them. ²⁵“Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” ²⁶When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

2. Jesus shows them how to face trial and death.

- Remember, Jesus did all He did with His disciples in mind.
- He shows them how to deal with what is coming.
- The Mount of Olives was where the wine press was.

Mark 14:32–41 (NIV) ³²They went to a place called **Gethsemane**, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. ³⁴“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.” ³⁵Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶“Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” ³⁷Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour? ³⁸Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ³⁹Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. ⁴⁰When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners.”

A. He went to prepare Himself for what was coming by spending time with God.

- Honest prayer of, “Father, please ... but you know best.”
- “But ... not my will...” There was an internal wrestling match.
- Prayer prepares you for what is coming and protects you from the devil.

B. Notice, He prayed with others.

- Jesus was honest with His disciples.
- Maturity is allowing others into your struggle.
- Maturity is being authentic.
- Maturity is asking for help.
- So many think they cannot show weakness or struggle. This says to the next generation that you don’t struggle, and this is not true.

C. Notice, the disciples failed Jesus. Look at Jesus’ response.

- Judas betrayed Jesus, Peter denied Jesus three times, and everyone fled.
- You might say these guys did not help Him, and that they failed Him. Yes, but He forgave them and continued open, honest relationship with them.
- Look at His response:

Mark 14:66–72 (NIV) ⁶⁶While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. “You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said. ⁶⁸But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway. ⁶⁹When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.” ⁷⁰Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” ⁷¹He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.” ⁷²Immediately 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 wept.

The ultimate conclusion: Jesus on the cross changed their lives.

- “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34)
- He arose and came for His disciples.
- The difference between Peter and Judas?
 - Both doubted, sought to manipulate Jesus for their own benefits, and being the greatest in the Kingdom was their motive.
 - One confessed and accepted forgiveness, and the other said no.

- ⇒ Jesus’ foreknowledge of events
- ⇒ Jesus’ response to the trial
- ⇒ God’s activity (raising Jesus from the dead)
- ⇒ Jesus’ pursuit of those who failed

These all affected the disciples’ lives and deaths; does it affect yours?

Questions for your devotional time and conversations with others:

- **What was significant to you from the sermon?**
- **How do you feel challenged to respond?**

As you read/listen to: Mark 14:43-15:48, be thinking about:

1. What do you notice about Jesus in the different scenes in this passage?
2. What do you observe about the various people interacting with Jesus? Who is there? What are they doing? How does Jesus respond?
3. What is meaningful to you in this passage?
4. How will you respond to what the Lord has shown you in the Word and what He has done for you in His death?
5. With whom will you share the good news of Jesus?

The Book of Mark Reading Plan

August 5-11: **Mark 14:53-15:47**

August 12-19: **Mark 16:1-20**