

Brentwood Bible Fellowship
Reading thru the New Testament
2017

Week 3
The Book of Mark
Chapters 11-15

Suggested Weekly Memory Verse: Mark 12:29 or Mark 12:29-31

January 16-22

Monday - Mark 11 (The Beginning of the Passion Week, The
Triumphal Entry)

Tuesday - Mark 12 (The Great Commandment)

Wednesday - Mark 13 (The Olivet Discourse)

Thursday - Mark 14 (The Last Supper, The Arrest of Jesus)

Friday - Mark 15 (The Crucifixion of our Lord)

Saturday - Review

Sunday - Review

Questions and comments concerning the daily readings

Mark 11-15

Week Three

Mark 11 - The beginning of the end – The Triumphal Entry

1. In Luke 11:1-10 Jesus is presented as the Triumphant Messiah. This passage is in fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9, which was written about 580 B.C.
2. V. 11 - Jesus did not stay in Jerusalem, but rather in Bethany which was located about two mile east of Jerusalem. Bethany was the hometown of Martha , Mary and Lazarus, who Jesus seemed to like to visit. It was here that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead.
3. In Mark 11:15-17 Jesus unleashed his anger on those who were doing business in the temple. According to John 2:13-17, Jesus performed a similar action at the beginning of His ministry. The merchants were fleecing the worshippers unjustly when they came up to Jerusalem to worship. Most likely only the merchants animals were deemed worthy to be sacrificed and they charged top dollar to those who came to sacrifice. Only the half-shekel was acceptable for the temple tax. Worshippers would have to change their Greek and Roman money for the temple money, of course at an added expense. The businesses would set up in the Court of the Gentiles, depriving the gentiles of an adequate place for worship and prayer. The commotion, the smell of the animals and the noise would make it a place unfit to come before the Lord.
4. In verse 17, Jesus said that the Temple was to be a house of prayer (Isaiah 56:7). But they had made it into a den of thieves. (Jeremiah 7:11).
5. Pictures often portray Jesus as meek and mild, not physically combative. Describe how you might envision Jesus as you think of him driving the businessmen from the temple. How does this vision vary from how you might normally envision Jesus? What do you think Jesus looked like when he calmed the wind driven sea or was seen by the disciples walking on the water? As we study the gospels take time to get to know this man we call Lord.
6. We may not create booths to sell our goods in the church facility, but are there any methods you can think of where the church is used in an improper manner for personal gain? How? What could or should be our attitude toward such enterprises?
7. According to verses 20 – 24, what do you learn about prayer, faith and forgiveness? How are the three related?

8. In verses 27-33 the scribes and elders were questioning Jesus authority. Possibly they had been involved in the businesses in the temple which Jesus attacked. How did Jesus answer their question? What was the result? Why do you think the scribes and elders were unwilling to accept Jesus as Messiah at the Triumphal Entry?

Mark 12

1. In the parable of the vineyard in verses 1 – 12, reflects on the role of each of the individuals or groups involved: The Owner of the vineyard, the vineyard, the vineyard growers, the servants sent by the owner, and the owner's son. What lesson was Jesus teaching the religious leaders through the is parable?
2. What did Jesus teach about our relationship to the civil government in verses 13-17? What does he teach about paying taxes?
3. The Pharisees and the Sadducees were opposing political and spiritual parties in Judea. The Pharisees were the conservative right. They were often businessmen. They maintained strict observance the Jewish law, as well as adding many traditions to the worship of the Jewish people, which they deemed just as important and sometimes more important than the law. Jesus classified them as hypocrites. They believed in the supernatural and they believed in the resurrection. The Sadducees were the more liberal left. They were made up of the Priestly class and oversaw the temple worship. They kept the law, but they did not believe in the supernatural or the resurrection of the dead. So the Sadducees, in this passage, came to test Jesus with a test which they did not adhere to themselves. Jesus knew that. The issue was, according to custom, if a man was married and died without an heir and that man was the oldest son in the household then his brother, next in age must take his wife and father a child by her that would then become the heir of the oldest brother. He would carry on the line of the family. The question was if there were seven brothers and they all died apparently without giving the family an heir through the woman, whose wife would she be in heaven. (Aren't you glad we don't follow this custom today? Talk about hand-me-downs!)

What do you learn about angels from this passage? What do you learn about our relationships in Heaven?

What did Jesus mean when he said God is not the God of the dead but the living in verse 27?

4. The Great Commandment – Mark 12: 28-34

What is important to us about the phrase, “The Lord our God is one Lord!” Why is it important for us to understand today? How does it relate to the trinity or tri-unity of God?

How would you explain to someone what it means to love God according to verse 30? Give some practical examples.

What does it mean to love my neighbor as myself as stated in verse 31? Who is my neighbor? Give some practical examples of how I might love him or her. How might I love myself without infringing on my love for my neighbor or God?

5. How do verses 35 – 37 prove the deity of Christ?

6. In verse 41-44 Jesus observed a woman in the temple placing two small insignificant coins in the collection box. They were not much in relationship to the great sums of money some of the others were placing in the box and yet Jesus said that out of her poverty she gave more than all of the rest. How was her giving more significant than all of the others? How does her example demonstrate what our giving should be like when we give to God and the church?

Mark 13 - The Olivet Discourse – When will Jesus return?

1. In verses 1-2 Jesus foretells the destruction of the temple. The Romans destroyed it just as He foretold, in 70 A.D. Today, the Dome of the Rock, an Islamic Holy place, is located where the temple once stood. For the Israeli worship to resume, the temple must once again be built where the Dome of the Rock now stands. For this to happen, it will definitely be a God thing, but then again, all things are possible with God.
2. The disciples asked Jesus in verses 3-4 for a sign as to the coming of His kingdom. The remainder of the chapter explains what to look for prior to his coming. Are you looking for His coming? I hope so.
3. After reading verses 5-8 what are some of the events which must take place prior to His return? Are any of these events present today? Remember these are just the birth pangs, the beginnings of the things the Jewish nation was to be watching for.
4. The Abomination of Desolation, The Man of Lawlessness of II Thessalonians 2:3-4, the Antichrist, (all the same person), will establish a treaty of peace with Israel for

one prophetic week or seven years according to Daniel 9:27. Three and one half years into the time of peace, he will break the covenant and establish himself as one to be worshipped in the Jewish temple. At this point, the Israelis are admonished to flee for their lives. (Mark 13:14-20) This leads into the Great Tribulation or the last three and one half years of the prophetic one week or seven years. This will happen prior to Jesus descending and establishing his kingdom on the earth.

Matthew 24-25; I Thessalonians 4-5; II Thessalonians 2 and the Book of the Revelation, will all shed a great deal more light on the tribulation period and the coming earthly kingdom when we read them.

5. According to Mark 13: 24-27 Jesus returns to establish his earthly kingdom. Describe the events which will take place with His return. (I don't know about you, but for me all of these future events can be a little overwhelming. A little frightening when you think of them, but very exciting for those of us who know the Lord. Jesus is coming again with power and authority. Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus!)
6. The term, this generation, can be confusing if you think of one generation of the human race. In the Greek language it could also mean a race. The prophecy was that the Jewish race would not cease to exist until all of this is accomplished. God is not yet through with His relationship with Israel. That would be a good thing for America to remember as we deal with the nation of Israel today.
7. According to Mark 13:31-37, what is the one great admonition Jesus gave to his listeners and to those of us who are reading these words? Who knew the exact time when Jesus would return?

I have spoken with people who say they do not want to know when Jesus will come back or details of the times to come. What is Jesus admonition to his disciples and to us concerning knowledge of the times to come??

Mark 14

1. Why were the Jewish leaders fearful of arresting Jesus during the Passover according to verses 1-2?
2. The anointing of Jesus by Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus. Mark 14:3-11

Why were some of the disciples, Judas in particular, troubled that Mary was anointing Jesus with her costly perfume? What does that reveal to us was important to those particular disciples who were upset?

What was Jesus response? What do learn from this incident about what our worship should be like? In what ways can we be more like Mary?

3. Jesus foretells his betrayal - Mark 14:17-21

God had a plan in place that would be completed. Judas would betray Jesus. Even though this was God's plan, Judas would be held accountable for his actions. We do not totally understand this, but God's plans do not in any way negate man's responsibility. We are responsible before God for our decisions and actions.

4. The First, Last Supper – Communion Mark 14:22-25

Jesus said the bread was his body and the cup was his blood. According to the context, were the bread and cup really the body and blood of Christ or were they symbolic of his body and blood? Why?

5. Mark 14:26-31 What was the message Jesus gave to His disciples? We tend to have selective hearing, what do you think they heard Jesus say? How many of the disciples did Jesus say would fall away? How many denied that they would fall away? Why should the disciples have received hope and encouragement in Jesus message? How do you think you would have reacted if you had been one of the eleven? (Judas was gone.)

6. Jesus went to the garden to pray prior to his trial and crucifixion. Mark 14:32-42

What can we learn about the importance of prayer from this passage? What specific principles do we learn from Jesus prayer in verse 36? On the other hand, what do we learn from the disciples failure to pray? Jesus said that the lack of prayer would lead to what in verse 38? What can we learn about the importance of praying in our own lives from this passage? You may want to list a few of the principles in your notes.

7. The betrayal and arrest of Jesus - Mark 14:43-52

Note the actions of the three individuals or groups of people surrounding Jesus: 1) Judas, 2) those who came to arrest Jesus and 3) His disciples. The young man who lost his sheet and ran off naked is believed to have been Mark, the author of this gospel. (If I were Mark, I am not sure I would have included that bit of information.) What do you feel was the feeling of the disciples when they all fled and left Jesus? According to the Gospel of John, Peter attempted to defend Jesus with his sword.

8. The Denial - Mark 14:53-65

According to the Gospel of John, Peter and John were the only disciples who we know who followed Jesus to his trial. This was an illegal trial, the Jews did not have the legal right to try Jesus.

It is interesting that no one could bring a legitimate charge against Jesus. This must have frustrated the Jewish leaders. What was Jesus ultimately accused of? What did Jesus say concerning his identity in verses 61- 62? What emotion does it arouse in you when you read about Jesus trial?

9. The three denials of Peter. Mark 14:66-72

Jesus had prophesied that Peter would deny him three time just as it took place. Speaking only from a human stand point, why do you think Peter denied Jesus when he had been so adamant just a short time before that he would never deny Jesus?

Why do you think that Peter left weeping?

Peter is often criticized for his failures, his denials of Christ being the most obvious. But before we judge Peter too harshly, let us not forget that he was willing to brandish a sword on behalf of the Lord. He was also one of only two who followed Jesus to his trial. Peter stood his ground fairly well until the pressure became too great. Peter, when he realized his failure, went out and wept bitterly.

Thinking of your own relationship with Jesus, how do you think you would have reacted if you had denied Jesus? A denial need not be openly verbal such as Peter's, but it may be just not speaking up when Christ or Christianity are defamed. Not saying something for Jesus when you have the chance because of how the other person may respond or out of concern that you might offend them. How would you feel knowing you had denied the Lord in that way?

Mark 15 - The Crucifixion

1. Mark 15:1-15

The Jews did not have the authority to sentence someone to death, so they had to take Jesus to Pilate for sentencing.

What evil did Pilate find in Jesus that merited the death penalty? If he found no wrong in Jesus, then why did Pilate ultimately hand Jesus over to be crucified? Do you think Pilate a very strong leader? Why or why not?

Note: Pilate called Jesus the King of the Jews! The chief priest understood that Pilate could not sentence a person to death unless he was convicted of murder or treason. Jesus was convicted as one raising up a rebellion against the empire. (Sounds like Star Wars.) The important spiritual issue is that the state called him King of the Jews. In reality, he came to fulfill the prophecy as King of the Jews in the line of David. (Isn't it cool how God works.)

2. Mark 15:15-21 Pilate had Jesus scourged, punishment reserved only for murderers and traitors. To be scourged was to be flayed by a person with a whip which had bones and metal pieces embedded in its thongs. It would rip the skin and muscle away from the skeleton. Jesus may have been close to death before he ever began his trek up the hill to Golgotha. As you read these passages, take time to reflect on the suffering Jesus endured on our behalf. (If you have time, read Isaiah 53. It was written 700 years before the death of Jesus, but describes his sacrifice extremely well.)
3. Jesus was crucified at the third hour, or 9:00 A.M. He was mocked and taunted. He must have felt all alone. Rejected, despised. I wondered if any who had cheered Jesus less than a week earlier, at the triumphal entry, were there? How about the multitudes who had heard him speak, or those who had been fed by a few small loaves of bread and a couple of fish, Where were they? What about those who had been healed, whose sight had been restored. Where were they? Even the eleven, other than John, were absent. Certainly they had all heard of the raising of Lazarus even if they had not been there to see it. How quickly man's emotions swing from one side to the other. Jesus was alone as far as we know, except for John and a few of the women.

Mob rule does funny things to people. People act and react in ways they never would alone. We even see it in our demonstrations and riots.

The mob had cried out, "crucify Him, crucify Him." Were they also some of the same individuals who had cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

4. Verse 33 explains that from noon until 3:00 P.M. the lights went out, it became dark.
5. In verse 34 Jesus cried out, the end was near. He cried, "My God My God, why have you forsaken me." There is a great deal of conjecture as to what this might mean. My personal belief, as well as that of many others, is that as he carried the load of the sin of the world on himself he felt a separation between Himself and His Father. He had never experienced that before. The Bible says that He who knew no sin became sin for us. He did not cease being fully God and fully man at this point, but the pressure of being the sin bearer must have been overwhelming. Everything else that Jesus had experienced up to this point was nothing in comparison to taking on Himself the sin of this world. But if

He had not done so, you and I would still be lost in our sin. Now is the time to stop and thank Jesus for the sacrifice He made for us, for you!!!

How does it feel to be rejected by someone you love? Now think about how Jesus must have felt as he hung on the cross!!!

6. Notice in verse 37 it says that Jesus cried out and breathed his last. He did not have his life taken from Him. He gave it up voluntarily. At the proper time, God's time, he gave it up. Jesus was a willing participant, a willing sacrifice.
7. According to verses 38-39, two amazing things took place when Jesus died. What might have been the significance of the veil to the Holy of Holies being torn in two? Don't forget the Centurion. Why is his personal declaration so important?
8. Mark 15:43-46 What was special about Joseph of Arimathea? I am impressed by Joseph for several reasons. The use of his tomb fulfilled prophecy. Jesus was to be buried with the rich. He was crucified with thieves and buried with the wealthy. The other thing that impresses me about Joseph was his courage. We had not heard of him before and would not hear of him again, but when everyone else had disappeared, Joseph was there, we learn in other gospels, with Nicodemus to collect the body. Good job Joseph!!!
9. One last group to admire, the women. They were rock solid. When the men disappeared, not evident around the cross, the women were there. Why is it important to know that the women knew where Jesus was buried? Mark 15:40-42, 47