

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

EASTER STUDY 2019

Each of the four gospel writers included an account of the sufferings, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Each account contains events that another might not. These are not in contradiction to one another, but rather, each author has reported the events that were pertinent to his goal in writing. In this lesson, we will be focusing on Mark's account. One method of inductive study is to go through the text and ask questions like *who, what, why, where, and how*. You will be using this method in this lesson. It may seem academic, but truth learned better enables you to apply it later. As you study, may you see afresh the sufferings of our Lord Jesus and may you be drawn to a new appreciation of the Savior of your soul.

DAY ONE: Read Mark 14:1-26 - The Plot to Betray Jesus

1. It was the time of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Earlier that week, Jesus had entered Jerusalem riding a donkey. The crowds gathered on what we call Palm Sunday crying out, *Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!* The next few days were busy ones for Jesus. During those days, He went into the temple of God and drove out the moneychangers. His authority was questioned by the chief priests and elders. He told many parables, many of which were aimed at the religious leaders of the day. He verbally attacked them saying, *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!* And He wept over Jerusalem, longing to gather her children together, but they *were not willing*. The chief priests had had enough. According to Mark 14:1,2, what did they do?
 - a. Chooses a phrase or two from these verses that reveal the kind of men these priests and scribes were.

2. Sandwiched between the chief priests' desire to take Jesus and His betrayer coming to them is the account of Jesus at the home of Simon the leper. What happened there? verses 3-9
 - a. What particular aspect of Mary's devotion in action ministers to you the most? Why?

- b. *There were some who were indignant among themselves* over what Mary had done. Read John 12:4-6. Record who was one of those who were *indignant*, what he said, and why.
- 1.) It is so easy to misunderstand another's motives and then judge them. Mary's action did seem like a waste. What lesson can we learn from this?
3. *Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him (Jesus) to them* (verse 10). What a sad verse. Judas was *one of the twelve* who were exposed to the teaching and character of Jesus more than any others. Yet he came to the priests and scribes to *betray* the One he had outwardly chosen to follow. Mark 14:11 reveals the response of the chief priests. What was it?
4. The time of the Passover had arrived. Jesus made arrangements through the disciples to eat the Passover meal with them in an upper room. It is there that He announced His betrayal. The disciples *began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, "Is it I?"*. According to verse 20, how did Jesus identify His betrayer?
- a. Dipping bread with another was a sign of fellowship. This moment had been prophesied 1,000 years prior by King David. Record what David wrote in Psalm 41:9.
- b. Define this kind of *betrayal* in your own words.
5. At this time, Jesus instituted what we now know as "The Lord's Supper" or "Communion". The two main elements were the bread and the cup. What did each of these elements represent? verses 22,24
6. After this, verse 26 says that they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives. Tradition says it was a song from the Hallel, Psalm 114 - 118. It was probably sung antiphonally (Jesus, as the leader, would sing the lines and His followers would have responded with "Hallelujah!"). What Psalms do you like to read, or songs do you like to sing, in times of trouble?
- a. What specifically about them helps you?

DAY TWO: Read Mark 14:27-52 - The Events in the Garden of Gethsemane

1. Jesus told the disciples that they would all *be made to stumble* because of Him that night. Peter took exception. Record the interaction between Jesus and Peter in verses 29-31.

2. *Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane...* (verse 32). Verse 33 says that after He told the disciples to *sit here while I pray*, He took with Him Peter, James, and John. Mark 14:33-34 describes Jesus' demeanor at the time. What was it?
 - a. What can you learn from Jesus' attitude and response that you can apply to your life in times of deep sorrow?

3. Jesus came to the disciples three times and found them sleeping. According to verse 38, what was His concern?
 - a. What does it mean to *watch and pray*?

 - b. How have you found prayer to be a preventative to *temptation*?

4. Although Jesus was well aware of the severity of what awaited Him, what did He pray? verse 36

5. Notice in verses 41 and 42 the change in Jesus after His prayer of surrender. He is ready. He is prepared. Share a time when you experienced supernatural victory and strength after you surrendered your will to God's will.

6. Mark 14:43-52 describes Jesus' betrayal and arrest in Gethsemane. Record one thing from these verses that impacted you.

DAY THREE: Read Mark 14:53 – Mark 15:20 - The Trials

Jesus before the Sanhedrin (Mark 14:53-65)

1. Jesus was led away to the palace of the high priest. There the chief priests, elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus. What do verses 55,56 say about this?

2. Even in the face of false testimonies, Jesus kept silent. What question did the high priest ask Him? verse 61
 - a. What was Jesus' reply? verse 62

 - b. The high priest understood well what Jesus meant and therefore *tore his clothes, and said, "You have heard the blasphemy"* (verse 64). Verse 65 describes the punishment they inflicted upon Jesus. What did they do?

Peter's denial (Mark 14:66-72)

1. Just hours earlier, Peter claimed that he would not deny Jesus, even if he had to die with Him (verse 31). In Mark 14:66-72 we see Peter's failure to keep his promise. What happened?
 - a. Peter's response after he *thought about* what he had done was weeping. How can weeping be a good response and how can it not be?

Jesus before Pilate (Mark 15:1-20)

1. When morning came, the chief priests and elders bound Jesus and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor (Mark 15:1). Again, the chief priests accused Jesus of many things. Yet He did not respond to their accusations. He did, however, answer one of Pilate's questions. What was the question and what was Jesus reply? verse 2

2. *Now at the feast he (Pilate) was accustomed to releasing one prisoner to them (the Jews), whomever they requested* (Mark 15:6). Read verses 6-15 and summarize this event.

3. After Jesus was given *a sponge full of sour wine* to drink, He *cried out with a loud voice and breathed His last* (verse 37). Then *the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom* (verse 38). The veil had separated man from the Holy of Holies, which represented the presence of God. In Jesus' death on the cross, the veil was torn; access into the presence of God had been secured for all who would come through Jesus. Describe this incredible privilege as you would to a new Christian.

4. A Roman centurion *who stood opposite Him* had witnessed the events of the cross at close hand. He had heard the accusations, He had seen the miracles, and He had observed Jesus for six hours under intense pain and humiliation. According to Mark 15:39, what conclusion did he arrive at concerning Jesus?
 - a. The chief priests and scribes knew the Scriptures very well. Yet, they missed the truths about the Messiah. The centurion was probably biblically illiterate. Yet he understood. People can attend church, and even read the Bible, yet miss the essential truths of salvation. How does this happen?

DAY FIVE: Read Mark 15:42-47 - The Burial

1. *Now when evening had come...it was time for Jesus' body to be buried.* Who came to claim His body and where did he put it?

2. Who else *observed where He (Jesus) was laid*?
 - a. What does this tell you about the theory that they found an empty tomb, simply because they went to the wrong one?

DAY SIX: Read Mark 16:1-14 - The Resurrection

1. Read verses 1-8 and answer the following questions:
 - a. Who came to the grave? verse 1
 - b. When did they go to the grave? verse 2
 - c. What was their concern before they arrived at the grave? verse 3
 - d. Why did this not need to be a concern? verse 4
 - e. What did they see when they entered the tomb? verse 5
 - f. List the instructions that the angel gave to them: verses 6,7
 - g. What was their response? verse 8

2. Thus, the witness of the resurrection began. What common phrase is recorded in verses 11, 13, and 14 that reflects the reception of the gospel by those who were first witnessed to?
 - a. Before they would believe, Jesus had to physically appear to His disciples. What did Jesus say to Thomas in John 20:29?
 - 1.) Christians today are among those who are *blessed*. We have not physically seen Jesus, yet we believe. Why do you believe the gospel?

Review and Reflection:

Pause and meditate on these three chapters of Mark. Reflect upon the events recorded and share something from each day that impressed you.

Day One: The plot to betray Jesus

Day Two: The events in the Garden of Gethsemane

Day Three: The trials

Day Four: The crucifixion

Day Five: The burial

Day Six: The resurrection

*...Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.
He is risen! ... - Mark 16:6*