

The Gospel according to

MARK



The CROWN &
CROSS of Christ

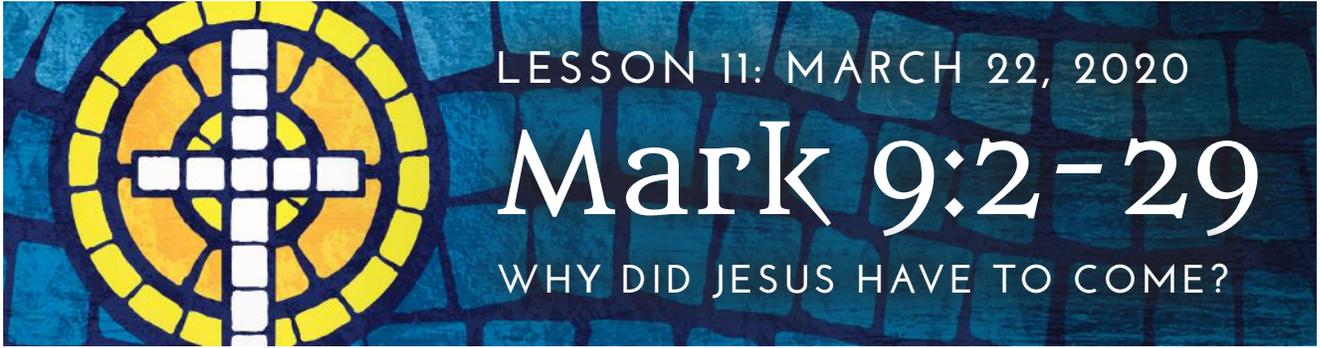
PART 2



Study written by
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LIVING UNDER THE WORD
Sermon Notes

LIVING WITH ONE ANOTHER RENEW GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

Read Mark 9:2-29.

1. Mark 9:2-8 gives account of Jesus's transfiguration. To help us understand what is happening and its significance we are going to

- illustrate the encounter described in these verses
- look to other passages in scripture to give us context

a. Sketch a picture of the people mentioned in verses 2-8. Where are they? Who is there? What is significant about their appearance?

b. The transfiguration happens in context of glory seen in the past, reminiscent of Moses's experience on Mount Sinai in Exodus 33:18-23. It also corresponds to Isaiah 52:13-15 and Isaiah 53:1-12. Read Isaiah 52 and think about what the transfiguration would mean to Peter, James, and John. How might it encourage them? What might Jesus want them to know? Why was it important that they were present?

- c. The transfiguration of Jesus also points to glory to come. It's a prelude to Mark 14:1-16:8. Take a few minutes to skim Mark 14:1-16:8 to get a picture of this glory to come. How might this have been surprising to the disciples?

Moses and Elijah appearing beside Jesus before Peter, James, and John validate and confirm his character and mission. Jesus is more explicitly making himself known as the promised Messiah. Moses, representing the Old Covenant and the promise, and Elijah, in his role of restorer of all things, testify to Jesus and proclaim the "coming of the end."¹

2. What was Peter's response to what he saw taking place in verses 2-4? How did he want to help? Why would he want to put up tents? (Remember what happens to anyone who witnesses Shekinah glory, the glory and splendor of God. The term Shekinah is not found in the Bible. The Hebrew name Shekinah means "one who dwells." To gain a deeper understanding of this, look up the following verses: Exodus 19:16-18, 40:34-38; 1 Kings 6:13; 2 Chronicles 7:1; Psalm 68:16-18.)

3. Describe what happened after Peter shared his plan (verses 6-8).

¹ William L. Lane, *The Gospel according to Mark* (NICNT) (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974), 319.

4. What does God command them to do? Do his words surprise you?

5. Why did Peter, James, and John not die while in the presence of God? Why is it important to see that Moses and Elijah have disappeared and only Jesus remains?

Read Hebrews 1:13 and Hebrews 9:1-26 to learn more about who Jesus is and what came to do, specifically as it connects to Peter's tent/tabernacle idea.

Tim Keller in *King's Cross* describes it like this:

Jesus is the bridge over the gap between God and humanity ... through Jesus we can cross the gap into the very heart of reality, into the steps of the dance. Jesus is the temple and tabernacle to end all temples and tabernacles, because he is the sacrifice to end all sacrifices, the ultimate priest to point the way for all priests ... James, Peter, and John have experienced worship. Worship is a preview of the thing that all our hearts are longing for, whether we know it or not. We seek it in art, in romance, in the arms of our lovers, in our family. On the mountain, Peter, James, and John had a foretaste of what we all long for: the very face and embrace of God.²

6. In Mark 9:9-10, as they were coming down from their glory-filled mountain experience, what does Jesus ask of Peter, James, and John? Why? To what is Jesus pointing them?

7. Read Malachi 4:4-6 to learn more about why the disciples asked Jesus, "Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?" What insight does Jesus's answer give. (Other verses that will help you make connections between Elijah and John the Baptist and the role they played in preparing the way for Jesus are 2 Kings 1:8 and Mark 1:6 and 6:25-29.)

8. Summarize what you have learned about who Jesus is, what transpired during the transfiguration, and why the disciples needed to witness it.

9. When they were back down the mountain, they met up with the other disciples who were engaged in conflict with the scribes. What was going on at the bottom of the mountain?

10. Describe the interaction between Jesus and the father of the boy who was possessed by an evil spirit. What was the problem?

11. What does Jesus say in verse 29 in answer to the disciples' question about why they could not drive the demon out of the boy? What was missing in their attempts to battle against evil?

It seems that the disciples may have become misguided in their belief that the power to exorcise demons was in their control. Jesus is reminding them of the importance of prayer. William Lane in his commentary of *The Gospel According to Mark* (pp 335-336), says this: "In response to the inevitable question of why they had failed, Jesus explained to the disciples that such maligned evil spirits can be expelled only by a full reliance upon the unlimited power of God expressed through prayer. This response contains at least the implicit criticism that the disciples had failed because they had not acted in prayer and sincere faith. . . .The disciples had been tempted to believe that the gift they had received from Jesus (Mark 6:7) was in their control and could be exercised at their disposal. This was a subtle form of unbelief, for it encouraged them to trust in themselves rather than in God. They had to learn that their previous success in expelling demons provided no guarantee of continued power. Rather the power of God must be asked for on each occasion in radical reliance upon his ability alone. When faith confronts the demonic, God's omnipotence is its sole assurance, and God's sovereignty is its only restriction. This is the faith which experiences the miracle of deliverance."

12. What does it look like to trust in God? To radically rely on his ability alone? To rely fully on the unlimited power of God? Read Psalm 3 and Psalm 91 to get a glimpse of this kind of faith. Write down what you find out.

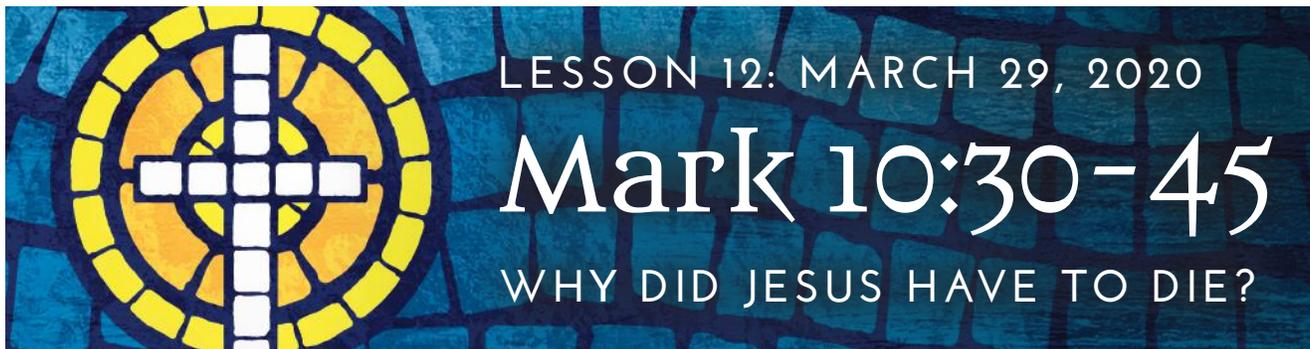
Psalm 3

Psalm 91

LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

13. Are you facing a hard task in your life that demands courage and spiritual energy? What have you learned from this passage that will help you face this task?

14. Do you struggle with the same weaknesses as the disciples—failing to listen to Jesus’s words or failing to trust him to do what you cannot do? Or maybe you have become complacent about following him, relying on your own strength and ability? Pray that God will help you see your weakness or complacency. Confess it to him and ask him to help you change.



LIVING UNDER THE WORD

Sermon Notes

LIVING WITH ONE ANOTHER RENEW GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

Read Mark 10:29-45.

1. What does Jesus say the people living for Jesus's "sake and for the gospel" (verse 29) can expect now in this life? Do you see this in your life now?
2. What reward does Jesus say will be in "the age to come" (verse 29)? Are you living in the hope of what's to come?
3. Reread verse 30. What is the meaning of this verse and how should it shape our perspective/ actions?

4 Look at the three accounts in which Jesus predicts his death and resurrection in Mark. What is similar in each passage? What are the differences?

PASSAGE	SIMILAR	DIFFERENT
Mark 8:31-33		
Mark 9:30-32		
Mark 10:32-34		

5. How do these Old Testament prophecies compare to Jesus's fortelling of his death?

Genesis 3:15

Psalm 22:16

Psalm 16:9-11 (resurrection)

6. What is the purpose of Jesus foretelling His death?

Reread verses 35-45.

7. What are James and John asking of Jesus? What are their intentions of asking?

8. What is Jesus asking James and John when he asks if they can “drink the cup” he drinks or “be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with”?

Even though James and John answer yes, can they?

9. James and John were followers of Jesus and yet they constantly misunderstood the will of God. What does this mean for us as followers of Christ? What is stopping us from fully understanding the will of God in our lives?

10. The disciples' pride inhibited them from understanding Jesus. How did James' and John's pride affect the other disciples (verse 11)?

11. Reread verse 45. Let's look at the phrase "a ransom for many."

The Greek word for "for" is *anti* which translates to: instead of.

The Greek word for "ransom" is *lutron* which translates: to buy the freedom of a slave or prisoner.

What ransom will Jesus pay? Whose ransom will Jesus pay?

12. Unpack the phrase from Timothy Keller in King's Cross: "Jesus didn't have to die despite God's love, he had to die because of God's love."

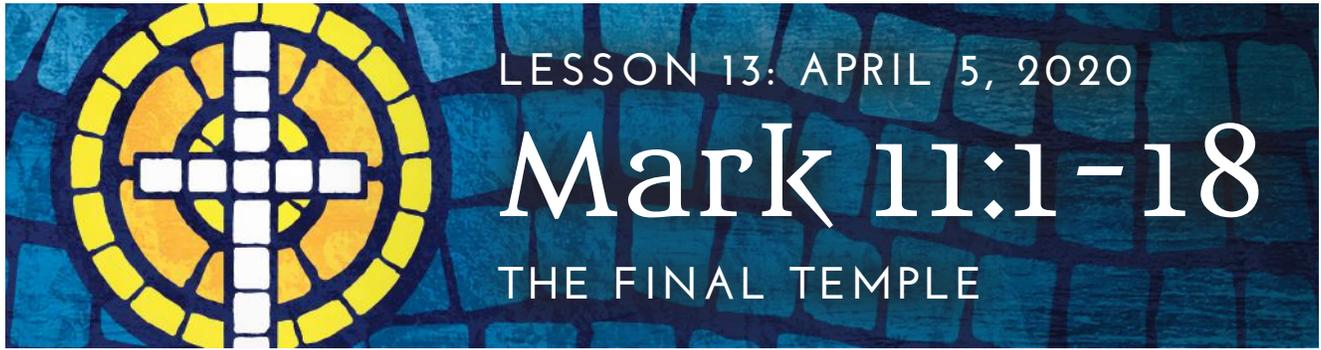
Timothy Keller explains this phrase by stating "all life-changing love is substitutionary sacrifice."

LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

13. What does humility in our lives look like? Are we naive and arrogant like James and John asking Jesus for glory? How does your pride affect your relationships with others? How can you be more humble? In what specific areas of your life is the Spirit prompting you to be humble?

Take a moment to praise God for loving us, despite our pride. Read Philippians 2:3-4 and ask him for humility.

14. Is your tendency to try to make a difference through power and control or through the humility of serving others?



LIVING UNDER THE WORD
Sermon Notes

LIVING WITH ONE ANOTHER RENEW GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

In the previous chapters of Mark, Jesus and his disciples have been making their way to Jerusalem and neighboring Bethpage and Bethany. They recently left Jericho and headed south toward Jerusalem by way of The Mount of Olives, a prominent hill just to the east of the city of Jerusalem.

Read Mark 11:1-18.

1. Describe what is happening in verses 1-10. What did Jesus ask his disciples to do? Were they successful?

2. Read the parallel accounts of Jesus's Triumphal Entry as recorded in the other gospels. What details or insights give you a fuller picture of what was occurring here?

Matthew 21:1-9

Luke 19:28-38

John 12:12-15

3. It is worth noting that this is the beginning of Passover Week, a week that holds great significance for the people of Israel. Passover was a time of when God's chosen people remembered how he freed them from slavery in Egypt. Many of the Jewish people viewed Jesus as a political, Davidic Messiah (Mark 11:9-10) who would free them from Rome's oppression. Was this why Jesus came? Whose or what oppression was Jesus going to free them from?

4. Note Mark 11:11. Where was Jesus and what did he do while there? What deeper meaning might this verse point to? Refer to Malachi 3:1-5 to gain more understanding.

5. Read Mark 11:12-14. What do we learn about Jesus's humanity in verse 12?

6. Was he able to find figs on the fig tree?

7. What did Jesus say to the fig tree?

8. In the Old Testament, the fig tree is often a metaphor for Israel. Jesus cursing the fig tree is a judgement of the fruitlessness of God's people. To gain insight and background into this read what the following verses say about Israel. Record any insights you have. Are there any similarities in your life and the lives of people of Israel?

Jeremiah 8:13

Hosea 9:10-17

Joel 1:7

9. Read Mark 11:15-19. Why was Jesus so upset?

10. Record Jesus's words in Mark 11:17. What was the purpose of his house, the Temple. Who was it for? Read Isaiah 56:7 for some background.

11. How had the people defiled the temple? And what was the underlying cause of Jesus's anger?

12. Jesus quotes from Jeremiah 7:11 and Isaiah 56:7. Look up these verses and read them in context. What was the false hope of the people in Jeremiah 7? What people groups does God intend to be in his new community?

What aspect or picture of Jesus as Savior do we see in this lesson?

LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

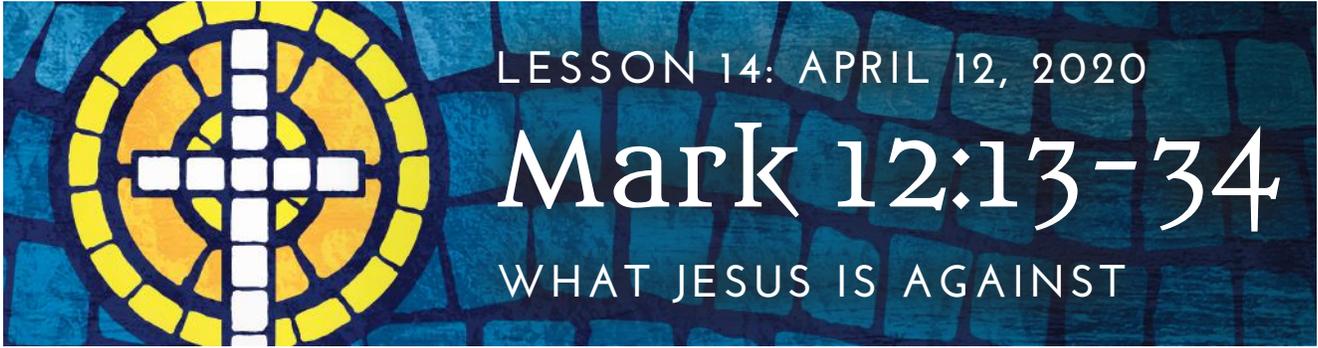
13. How is the church today fulfilling the role of "God's temple"? What are some things Christians can do to help all nations find forgiveness and meet with God? Are there any ways that our church has created obstacles that prevent anyone from entering?

14. What are some practical ways we can:

a. Get to know our neighbors and people from different cultures

b. Engage with and get to know people from other nations by supporting mission work

c. Break down the obstacles between different people groups



LIVING UNDER THE WORD
Sermon Notes

LIVING WITH ONE ANOTHER RENEW GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

Read Mark 12:13-34.

1. Pharisees, Herodians, and Sadducees were different groups of Jews, which meant they were familiar with the scriptures and laws in the Old Testament. What is the purpose and intent of the Pharisees, Herodians, and Sadducees asking their questions to Jesus?

2. Does Jesus respond the way they wanted him to?

3. In the story where resurrection is questioned (verses 18-27), what does Jesus say is the reason they are wrong?

4. What is the meaning of knowing "the power of God" (verse 24)?

To gain a better understanding of God and His power, read Exodus 3:5-14.

5. Reread Mark 12:31. Look at where these commandments come from in the Old Testament:

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Leviticus 19:18

What one word describes the great commandment?

6. Though it is often thought that love and law are in tension with one another, Jesus shows they are not. In His answer to the scribe's question, how does Jesus show that love is what fulfills the law?

7. Why does the teacher reference the burnt offerings and sacrifices in verse 33?

8. What is the result of concentrating on rules and righteousness (look at the Sadducees and Pharisees)?

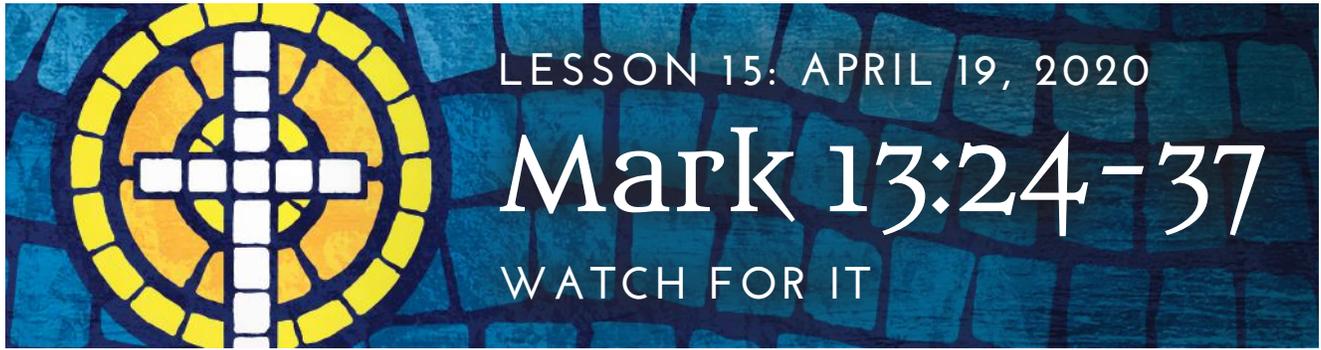
What aspect or picture of Jesus as Savior do we see in this lesson?

LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

9. Are you setting any "traps" for Jesus in your life, like the Pharisees/Herodians/Sadducees did with their questions? If not, what are past or potential "traps" to note?

10. How has love from God and love from others affected you in this past season of life?

11. In what specific ways can you love God and love others well?



LIVING UNDER THE WORD
Sermon Notes

LIVING WITH ONE ANOTHER

RENEW GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER 13

In this lesson we will get more of a glimpse into the conversations Jesus has with his disciples on the days before he faces the cross. On this week before Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection, much has taken place. In Chapter 11, we see Jesus entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey. On the next day, Jesus curses the fig tree. After that he cleanses the temple. Throughout this time, the chief priests, scribes, and elders ramp up their accusations and question his authority. In Chapter 12, Jesus speaks in parables, answers questions, and continues teaching in the temple. His opponents continue to try to trap him and Jesus exposes that the expert teachers don't know who the Messiah is.

Mark 13 begins with Jesus and his disciples leaving the temple to walk up the hill to the Mount of Olives. Michael Card in his book, *Mark: the Gospel of Passion*, describes what might have happened next. "As they make their way, the disciples point out the massive stones, some weighing one hundred tons and more. The disciples direct Jesus's attention to the magnificence of the marble- and gold-clad buildings. On their Galilean backwater simplicity, the disciples are in awe of the enormous thirty-five acre complex. But they have seen these wonders on more than one occasion. It makes me wonder if they are just making small talk in an attempt to distract Jesus. Jesus will not be distracted. Looking up at the massive facade of the temple, he whispers the double negative: 'No, not one stone will be left here on another'. (Mark 13:2, author's translation). To the twelve it sounds like the end of the world."³

1. Read Mark 13:1-13. Where are Jesus and his disciples? What are they discussing?

³ Michael Card, *Mark: The Gospel of Passion* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2012), 158.

2. *These things* in verse 4 refers to the destruction of the temple. Jesus has just prophesied that the temple will be destroyed and the disciples are very concerned. They want to know when this destruction will happen and how they will know when it's coming. In verse 5, Jesus tells them what to look for. He says watch out. Take care. Don't let anyone lead you astray. What does he tell them to watch out for?

Verse 6

Verse 7

Verse 8

Verse 9

Verse 11

Verse 12

Verse 13

3. In verses 9-13, Jesus describes a time when they will be persecuted and placed on trial. He gives them a charge and a hope. What is his charge? What hope does he give? How does he comfort them?

Continuing Michael Card's description of this account:

They cross the valley and make their way to one of the groves on the Mount of Olives overlooking the gleaming temple complex. Sitting at his feet are the first four disciples, Peter, James, John, and Andrew. They are still trying to recover from the shock of Jesus's prophecy. If we are to understand Jesus' answers, we must listen closely to the disciples first two questions. The first: "When will these things happen?" The second: "What will be the sign when all these things are about to take place?" (Mk 13:4). To these two questions Jesus will provide two clearly separate answers.

The first question involves the fulfillment of Jesus's shocking prediction regarding the stones of the temple, that not one stone would be upon another. Jesus provides four signposts that point to the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70.

- There will be false messiahs, but the disciple should not allow themselves to be deceived (Mk 13:5, 21-23).
- There will be wars and rumors of wars, but the disciples need to understand that such things happen (Mk 13:7).
- There will be earthquakes and famines, but these are only the beginning (Mk 13:8).
- The disciple will be persecuted, but the gospel must first be preached to all nations (Mk 13:9-11).

In verse 12, Mark records a prophecy that would have resonated in the ears of his Roman readers as they suffered under Nero's persecution. Families would split as brothers betrayed brothers, fathers betrayed children, and children betrayed parents. What is more, the disciples would be hated by everyone because of their commitment to Jesus.

Each detail of Jesus' words found its fulfillment in the four decades leading up to the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70. Five major earthquakes occurred: in Crete (AD 46), Rome (AD 51), Phrygia (AD 53, 60) and Camponia (AD 63). There were three great famines during the reign of Claudius: in Judea (AD 44), Greece (AD 50), Rome (AD 52). In addition, AD 65 was the worst year for famines and earthquakes in the entire history of Rome, and AD 69—known as the "year of the four emperors"—was a time of political confusion and upheaval the likes of which Rome had never experienced. The book of Acts records the arrests and trials of Jesus's apostles. Jesus has provided an accurate description of their experience from the present time until the years just prior to AD 70. Such things must happen, Jesus says, "but the end is not yet" (Mk 13:7)." Michael Card, *Mark: The Gospel of Passion*, (Intervarsity Press: 2012, pp 158-159)

Share something new that you learned from this quote from Michael Card.

4 Read Mark 13:14-23. Jesus tells them that an “abomination of desolation” is coming. Read Daniel 9:27, 11:31, and 12:11 to gain an understanding of what this means.

Card notes: “The abomination of desolation was first fulfilled in 168 B.C. when Antiochus IV placed a statue of Zeus on the altar of burnt offering in the court of the Temple. Jesus’s prophecy most likely refers to the moment when Titus and his soldiers set up altars in the temple area and offered sacrifices to pagan gods after the defeat of the Jewish rebels. Some believe the desolation came when, in A.D. 68, the Zealots anointed a clown as a high priest. The Jewish Christians recognized this as the sign that Jesus had spoken of and fled to the city of Pella before Jerusalem was cut off by the tenth Roman legion.” Card, pp 159-160

5. Read Mark 13:24-32. What monumental event does Jesus foretell in verses 24-25?

6. To help us understand the meaning of this, it’s important to understand the context. This imagery borrows from Old Testament language used to describe things of significance in the cosmos. They are significant events, but not necessarily the last act in history. What similar imagery is found in the following verses:

Ezekiel 32:7-8

Isaiah 13:10

Isaiah 34:4

Amos 8:9

7. What does he want his hearers to know about the Son of Man? Also read Revelation 1:7.

8. How do you see Jesus, the Son of Man, portrayed as King in these verses?

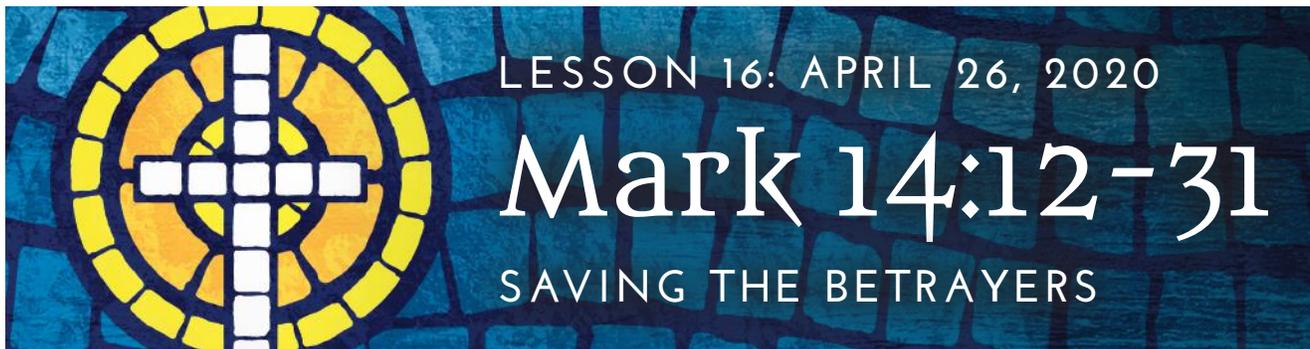
9. Remember the fig tree from Mark 11, the tree that Jesus cursed? In Mark 11:20-22, we learn that this same fig tree had withered. This represents the judgement of God on Israel. In verses 28-31, Jesus tells a lesson about another fig tree. What message is he conveying?

10. How does Jesus contrast his words with heaven and earth? What is Jesus claiming about his words?

11. While Jesus is reminding them that the time of his time is coming soon, did anyone know exactly when that time would be?

12. Highlight each time Jesus says "be on guard" or "stay alert" in Mark 13:32-36. How many times did he say this phrase in these five verses? What is he communicating to his disciples?

What aspect or picture of Jesus as Savior do we see in this lesson?



LIVING UNDER THE WORD

Sermon Notes

LIVING WITH ONE ANOTHER RENEW GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

Read Mark 14:12-31.

1. This passage covers a significant Jewish celebration, the Passover. To understand the origin of the Passover, read Exodus 12:1-20.

a. What was the purpose of the first Passover?

b. What characteristics of God are shown through the occurrence of the first Passover?

c. What does the Passover meal commemorate?

d. The Passover meal follows a set script with set actions. When Jesus departed from the script (Mark 14:22-25), how do you think the disciples responded?

Timothy Keller further explains the Passover in his book, *The King's Cross*:

"For the ancient Jews—and still for Jews today—Passover was an annual meal that commemorated a defining moment in the history of Israel. More than a millennium before the time of Jesus, the Israelites had been enslaved to Egypt's pharaoh, trapped in miserable bondage. After sending many plagues to Egypt to loosen the pharaoh's oppressive grip on Israel, one night God sent the final plague; he unsheathed the sword of divine justice. And this justice would fall on everyone. It could not "pass over" the Jews simply because they were Jews. In every home in Egypt—of Jews and Egyptians alike—someone would die under the wrath of justice. The only way for your family to escape was to put your faith in God's sacrificial provision ... You were saved only on the basis of faith in a substitutionary sacrifice." (pp 163-164)

2. What is the covenant Jesus is talking about in verse 24?

3. Who is the covenant between?

4. Look at Jesus comparing God's kingdom as a feast. How do these verses contribute to having hope of being in God's kingdom?

Matthew 22:2

Matthew 8:11

Luke 14:15

John 7:37-38

5. What does Jesus mean by "this is my body . . . this is my blood" (verses 22-24)?

6. Why do Christians not make sacrifices today?

7. How do these passages show Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice:

Hebrews 10:1-18

1 Peter 1:17-21

Ephesians 5:1-2

Hebrews 9:27-28

8. What is the purpose of taking communion, the Lord's Supper? Look at these passages to gain a better understanding of communion.

Luke 22:19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

John 6:48-51

9. Read Mark 14:26-31. What does Jesus prophesy in these verses?

vs. 27

vs. 30

10. Read Zechariah 13:7-9 to get context and gain a deeper understanding of Jesus's words in verse 27. We know that Jesus was soon to be arrested and condemned to death on a cross. How does the prophesy in Zechariah connect to Jesus's words?

11. How does Peter respond to Jesus's words in verse 30? How do the other disciples respond?

LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

12. Timothy Keller in *King's Cross* states:

"The 'mealness' of the Lord's Supper is a reminder that no one can appropriate the benefits of Jesus's death unless he calls them into a personal relationship with him. To share a meal with someone—particularly in Jesus's place and time—is to have a relationship. So Jesus is saying we need a personal relationship with him if all the benefits of his perfect, substitutionary, sacrificial suffering are to come to us." (p 170)

How are you cultivating your personal relationship with Jesus? How can you grow closer to Jesus?

13. Timothy Keller also explains the importance of taking communion with fellow believers in this way:

"When you take the Lord's Supper, you are doing it with brothers and sisters, with family. This bond is so life-transforming that it creates a basis for unity as strong as if people had been raised together."

Do you see this bond with fellow Christians in your life? In what ways are you cultivating these relationships?

14. The Lord's Supper gives us a glimpse of our future with Jesus. How is this hope affecting how you live today? Take a moment to praise God for inviting us into a personal relationship with Him where we can feast together.

15. Are you making space for other people at your "table"—believers *and* non-believers? How can you be doing this better or more effectively?



LIVING UNDER THE WORD
Sermon Notes

LIVING WITH ONE ANOTHER RENEW GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

1. Read Mark 14:32-36. Where did this take place? Who was there?

2. Highlight all the words that describe Jesus's emotions. List them here.

3. What does Jesus tell the disciples to do in verse 34?

4. When Jesus was alone, what did he ask his Father?

5. Why do you think Jesus wanted the hour to pass from him?

6. In his prayer, Jesus calls God 'Abba'. In his commentary on Mark, R.T. France cautions us against the oft-repeated statement that 'Abba' means 'Daddy'. *Abba*, he writes, "conveys the respectful intimacy of a son in a patriarchal family"; nevertheless, Jesus's use of the term "marks a unique sense of intimacy with God" and is "striking and unparalleled." It was also "taken over from him by his followers ... as a sign of an amazing and hitherto inadmissible relationship of the individual believer with God" (584). (Compare Paul's use of the term in Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6.) What does calling God 'Abba' reveal about the heart of Jesus's relationship with God?⁴

7. He also reveals other attributes of God. Describe who God is in Jesus's eyes at this moment. How does Jesus respond to the knowledge of who his father is?

8. Jesus asked God to remove *this cup* from him. Read Mark 14:22-25 to learn what this cup means. When he asked God to remove this cup from him, what was he asking? Jesus explained that the cup of the Passover represents his own blood that was about to be poured out for many. Also, in the Old Testament, a "cup" was used as a picture of God's anger and judgment on wickedness (see Isaiah 51:17, 22; Psalm 60:3). As he faces the cross, Jesus knows that he will suffer God's anger and judgment toward sin. What meaning does this give to the depth of emotion Jesus is feeling?

9. How many times did Jesus return to the disciples only to find them sleeping?

10. What had Jesus asked the disciples to do in verse 34? Did they come through for him?

11. Jesus must have been disappointed in his disciples. He was longing to escape the terrible experience he was about to face and he asked the disciples to keep watch. But they fell sound asleep. They failed Jesus in his time of greatest need. While they were sleeping, who found them (verse 42)?

What aspect or picture of Jesus as Savior do we see in this lesson?

LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

12. Are you calling on God as Abba as Jesus did, as Jesus's earliest followers did? Write a prayer to Abba, Father, thanking him for his faithfulness, kindness, grace, mercy and guidance in your life.

13. How should your heart and life be transformed by Jesus's amazing sacrifice?

14. What is Jesus asking of you? Are you listening?



LIVING UNDER THE WORD

Sermon Notes

LIVING WITH ONE ANOTHER RENEW GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

Read Mark 14:43-52.

1. Why does Judas use the friendly word 'Rabbi' and the gesture of a kiss when he greets Jesus before his capture?

2. What did Judas expect Jesus's response to his arrest to be? Look at the way Judas and the crowd came.

3. How did Jesus respond to his capture?

4. What did Jesus mean in verses 48-49? Did Judas understand Jesus and his ways? Did the person (in the other Gospels it is revealed that the man was Peter) in verse 46 understand Jesus's ways?

5. Compare Jesus's and Peter's response to opposition. Which response would come more naturally to you?

6. Jesus knows his kingdom is not in this world. Look at these passages to see how this is portrayed through Jesus's actions:

Matthew 10:45

Matthew 5:43-48

John 13:4-5

Luke 22:7

Phillipians 2:6-7

7. What did the disciples do when Jesus was arrested?

8. Why did the disciples flee?

Reread verses 51-52.

9. In the Bible, what is nakedness a symbol of (look at Genesis 3:7-10)? How is this related to verses 51-52?

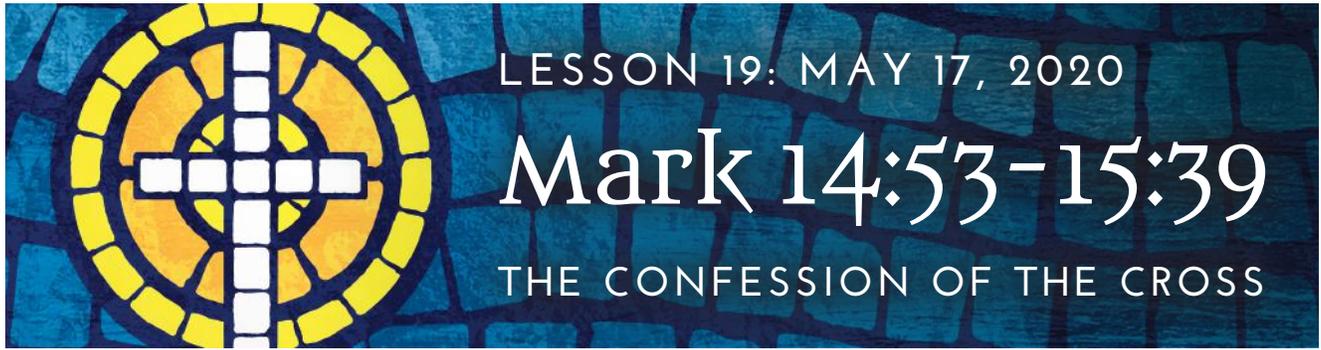
10. There's a parallel between the Garden of Eden and the Garden of Gethsemane (where Jesus is captured) in where people were given a test. Did anyone pass the test in the Garden of Eden? Did anyone pass the test in the Garden of Gethsemane?

What aspect or picture of Jesus as Savior do we see in this lesson?

LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

11. Having a kingdom mindset—knowing that your kingdom is not in this world—should be reflected through actions. Do your actions reflect your understanding of God's kingdom? How?

12. How have you seen others serving in your life? How can you serve more intentionally those inside and outside the church?



LIVING UNDER THE WORD
Sermon Notes

LIVING WITH ONE ANOTHER RENEW GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

The events that take place in verses 53-65 occur after Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. The hours leading up to this had been intense. Jesus and his disciples were exhausted. And at the moment when Jesus needed his guys to be alert, stay awake, and keep watch, they fell asleep. While they were sleeping, Judas, one of the disciples, led a violent crowd to the garden, and committed the ultimate act of betrayal. He handed Jesus over to his accusers.

1. Read Mark 14:53-65. On the same night that he was praying in the garden and arrested, Jesus was led to the high priest. Who led him there (see 14:43-46)?

2. Where were they? And who was present?

3. Was the trial recorded in Mark 14:53-65 a fair trial? Why or why not?

4. Beginning in verse 60, the high priest asks Jesus a series of questions. Record the questions and responses on the chart below.

VERSE	QUESTION	RESPONSE
60		(verse 61)
61		(verse 62)
63-64		(verses 64-65)

9. Jesus is on trial again before Pilate. Record the questions and responses in verses 2-5.

VERSE	QUESTION	RESPONSE
2		
4		Jesus: Pilate:

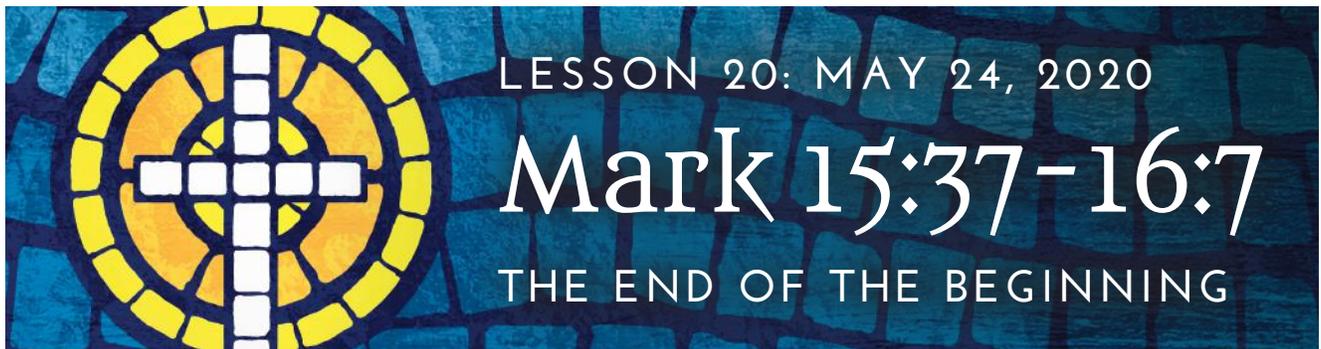
10. Describe what happens in verses 6-15. Do the crowds' reactions surprise you? Why or why not?

11. In verses 16-20, how do the soldiers treat Jesus? Read Matthew 27:27-30 and Luke 23:6-11 for parallel accounts.

12. What were they preparing Jesus for?

LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

13. Look back at Question 7. How did Peter respond when confronted with his sin? Do you respond the same way? What could it mean for you to know and believe that the foundation of our Christian lives is the death and resurrection of Jesus, not our performance? That because of Jesus's work on the cross, we are sons and daughters who are loved and forgiven?
14. Think about Jesus's responses to his opposition. How might following this example that Jesus set change the way you respond to others?



LIVING UNDER THE WORD

Sermon Notes

LIVING WITH ONE ANOTHER RENEW GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

Read Mark 15:37-16:7.

1. To better understand verse 38, read Hebrews 9:1-14.

a. What is the significance of the curtain tearing? What does it symbolize?

b. What is the significance of the curtain tearing from top to bottom?

2. What is the significance of the centurion saying, "Truly this man was the Son of God"?

3. How many eyewitnesses were there to Jesus's burial? Who were they?

4. Why did Joseph want to bury Jesus that day?

5. Was anyone expecting a resurrection? Were Jesus's disciples? Were the women who visited Jesus's tomb? How can you tell?

6. How do you think the women visiting the tomb felt when they found the stone rolled back? And when they heard "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here"?

7. What is the significance of women finding the empty tomb?

8. What does Jesus's death and resurrection mean for us? Look at these passages to further your understanding.

John 11:25-26

1 Thessalonians 4:14

1 Corinthians 15:13-19

Romans 8:31-39

LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

9. Are you fully trusting in Jesus and everything he has told/shown you? If not, what is stopping you?

10. Jesus came to this earth, took our sins upon himself, was crucified for our sake, and was raised three days later, so that we can be with our Father in heaven for eternity. Praise Him for his love and mercy! How does this great news affect your life? Who needs to hear this news today? Make a plan to tell them.

11. The lives of the disciples were radically changed after Jesus's resurrection. Timothy Keller explains: "There has to be some explanation for how the cowardly group of disciples was transformed into a group of leaders. Many of them went on to live sacrificial lives, and many of them were killed for teaching that Jesus had been resurrected." Are you running away from Jesus? Are you boldly teaching and leading others to Him? Timothy Keller, *The King's Cross*, p 218

"If you can't dance and you long to dance, in the resurrection you'll dance perfectly. If you're lonely, in the resurrection you will have perfect love. If you're empty, in the resurrection you will be fully satisfied. Ordinary life is what's going to be redeemed. There is nothing better than ordinary life, except that it's always going away and always falling apart. Ordinary life is food and work and chairs by the fire and hugs and dancing and mountains—this world. God loves it so much that he gave his only Son so we—and the rest of this ordinary world—could be redeemed and made perfect. And that's what is in store for us." Timothy Keller, *The King's Cross*, pp 223-224.

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