

# A WINTER BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK

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Tuesdays, 10:30 am to 12 noon – February 23<sup>rd</sup> – May 11<sup>th</sup>

Facilitators: Rev. Geoff Ross & Rev. Rosemary Doran

*"The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (Mark 1:1 NRSV)*

**Group Study - 9: Tues., April 27<sup>th</sup>** Jerusalem: "Entry into Jerusalem & The Temple"

Question 1) Our reading opens with Mark's account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Using Old Testament scripture to reinforce his message, Mark depicts Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey to cheers of adulation from the crowd – and the anger of the religious authorities: **What were the people expecting when they welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem? What were the authorities afraid of? If Jesus rode into Brampton, how do you think you would react?**

Question 2) In Mark 11:12–26 we read of Jesus' cursing the fig tree. This passage is hard for us to understand, but the fig tree stands as a metaphor for Israel and us: It looked alive but didn't have the fruit that Jesus expected and desired. Mark is inviting us to question ourselves: **Are we truly following Jesus, or are we only "fair weather" Christians? What evidence is there of healthy fruit in your life? How is "forgiving" a sign of fruitfulness?**

Question 3) The main theme in this week's reading is that of 'authority.' For the chief priests, scribes, elders it is a question of 'by whose authority' Jesus is doing/saying what He's saying/doing. Their challenge of Jesus is the same challenge that His followers face today in many ways: **In what ways has your faith been 'challenged' by the dominant 'authorities,' 'powers,' or 'forces' of our cultures or world? Describe the ways God, Jesus, or your faith has 'authority over you or how you live your life?**

## **Next Week's Study:**

**Session 10: Tues., May 4<sup>th</sup>** Jerusalem: "The Anointing, Betrayal, & Death of Jesus"

Mark 14:1-15:47