

A WINTER BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK

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

Facilitators: Rev. Geoff Ross & Rev. Rosemary Doran

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

Session 10: Tues., May 4th Jerusalem: "The Anointing, Betrayal, & Death of Jesus"

Question 1) Our reading opens with Mark's account of Jesus' being 'anointed' by a woman during a meal and the ensuing argument: **Many believe that the woman's anointing was an act of selfless, sacrificial, worship – others felt that it was a waste of money and resources; what do you think? How would you describe her action or gift? What place does sacrificial devotion – giving gifts to God – have in worship?**

Question 2) After the Passover meal (the Last Supper), Jesus and the disciples walk to the Mount of Olives, where He tells them what is about to happen – how they will desert Him, and then predicts that even Peter will deny Him – and then, how, within hours, he does deny Jesus: **What are your thoughts about the disciple's and their wavering, fair-weather faith? In what ways are you – or have you been – like them? How do you feel you live up to what it means to be a Christ-follower?**

Question 3) As Jesus' death nears He recites the opening verse from Psalm 22; *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* After you've read Psalm 22, consider the language of pain, suffering, even doubt that makes up the first half of the Psalm; then reflect on the tone and language from verse 19 on: **In what way does knowing that even Jesus cries a prayer of pain and suffering as He nears His death, but stays faithful and trusts in God's grace and mercy, help you in your faith – and in times of fear or doubt? Does His anguish make Jesus more 'relatable'?**

Next Week's Study:

Session 11: Tues., May 11th Jerusalem: "The Resurrection of Jesus"

Mark 16:1-8