

# A WINTER BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Tuesday, May 4, 2021: Session 10 - Readings

Jerusalem: "The Anointing, Betrayal, & Death of Jesus"

Mark 14:1-15:47

## Chapter 14: The Plot to Kill Jesus

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

### The Anointing at Bethany

While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

### Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

### The Passover with the Disciples

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go

## 1. Background: Anointing with oil

The most common oil in Israel was extracted from the olive trees around the country. Olive oil was so plentiful that, in addition to regular use in hygiene and medicine, it was used as currency, along with animals and precious metals. King Solomon even used it as partial payment to Hiram in exchange for construction expenses with the temple (1 Kings 5:11).

But often, oil was used for sacred events:

- Some priests were anointed with a special God ordained blend of spices and oil (Ex. 30:22–25).
- We see Aaron and his sons anointed, as well as all of the holy articles used in the tabernacle (Ex. 30:26–32).
- Similarly, kings were anointed with oil during their coronation or ceremonial calling (as with Saul in 1 Sam. 10:1; David in 1 Sam. 16:13, 2 Sam. 2:4; 5:1–5; Jehu in 2 Kings 9:1–6). In this sort of ceremony, oil was poured out onto the person's head.
- Prophets, such as Elisha, were anointed in the same way (1 Kings 19:16).

The pouring out of oil over God's chosen representatives displayed physically what had already happened spiritually: that person was being set apart—designated as holy—for God's special service. So when the woman approached Jesus and sacrificed her valuable jar of nard (oil) by pouring it over his head, those in the room understood the significance of her action. The fact that Jesus accepted and approved her behavior also spoke volumes.

Remember that all through the book of Mark, Jesus has been revealing his identity as the Son of God gradually. By now, on the cusp of his crucifixion, he's not hiding it anymore. He is the Messiah, a name derived directly from the Hebrew word for "anointed." As the Anointed One, he is the savior Israel has been waiting for. Different scholars, leaders, and citizens envisioned this Messiah in a variety of ways, but under Roman occupation, few were expecting a Prince of Peace.

## **1. Background: Anointing with oil** (Continued)

Read more from the Old Testament about the Messiah, also known as the Anointed One, the Servant: Psalm 2:2; Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Daniel 9:25–26. **In each passage, what do you learn about the Messiah?**

The Greek word for Messiah is Christ. Reflect on these mentions of the Messiah in the New Testament:

- **Matthew 1:17–18—In what context is he mentioned? Why is it significant here?**
- **Luke 2:11— Why is this good news to the shepherds?**
- **Acts 4:25–26—Which Old Testament passage is quoted here? How are Peter and John applying it in their speech?**

The coming of the Messiah was the answer to centuries of prayer—Israelites longing for God to return and rescue them. We also benefit from his coming, since he came to redeem all humanity—not from the Romans, but from the rule of sin and death. **What does Jesus’s title of Messiah mean to you?**

and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.” So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I?” He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.”

## **The Institution of the Lord’s Supper**

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

### **Peter’s Denial Foretold**

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters; for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” Peter said to him, “Even though all become deserters, I will not.” Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” But he said vehemently, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And all of them said the same.

### **Jesus Prays in Gethsemane**

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.” He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed

into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

### **The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus**

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.” All of them deserted him and fled.

A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

### **Jesus before the Council**

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’ ” But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?” But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” Jesus said, “I am; and ‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,’ and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’ ”

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?” All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophesy!” The guards also took him over and beat him.

### **Peter Denies Jesus**

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, “You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.” But he denied it, saying, “I do not know or understand what you are talking about.” And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.” But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know this man you are talking about.” At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, “Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

### **Chapter 15 Jesus before Pilate**

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You say so.” Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.” But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

#### **Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified**

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” For he realized that it was out of jealousy

that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” They shouted back, “Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

### **The Soldiers Mock Jesus**

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

### **The Crucifixion of Jesus**

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!” In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

## **The Death of Jesus**

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.” And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

### **2. Peek at the “Greek”: “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?”**

Actually, those words were not spoken or written in Greek, but in Aramaic, the everyday language that Jesus spoke. The phrase means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Jesus was quoting the opening line of Psalm 22.

Other gospel writers record more of what Jesus says and does in his last moments on the cross, but Mark chose only this one phrase. He wants to lean into the true depth of suffering that Jesus endures for our sake— as the righteous payment for the sins of many.

In the first century, the Jewish Scriptures didn’t have chapter and verse numbers. If they wanted to refer to a passage— particularly a psalm—they’d quote the first few words or line. So too here. Mark recorded not just the despairing words of Jesus as he suffered the full weight of judgment for sin, but also the hints of promised vindication.

## 2. Peek at the "Greek": "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"

(Continued)

Read through Psalm 22—all of it. As you do, consider how it might summarize the whole of the Mark's gospel.

**How does the full context of Psalm 22 color the final moments of Jesus's life? What does the poem hint at that should give us hope?**

Jesus was the suffering savior. Born to die, rejected by his closest friends and family, and murdered by the people he'd come to serve. Jesus's mission as the Christ was not to conquer, but to show compassion to a world stained by sin. In his faithful obedience to the Father, Jesus purchased salvation for many.

So that, as the writer of Psalm 22 says, "It shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it."

You were one of those "yet unborn." Someone told you about Jesus. **How did you come to faith in Jesus? What was that process or event like? How eagerly do you tell others about Jesus?**

### The Burial of Jesus

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.

## Psalm 22

### Plea for Deliverance from Suffering and Hostility

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me,  
from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;  
and by night, but find no rest.

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried, and were saved;  
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm, and not human;  
scorned by others, and despised by the people.

All who see me mock at me;

they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

"Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver—  
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"

Yet it was you who took me from the womb;  
you kept me safe on my mother's breast.

On you I was cast from my birth,

and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

Do not be far from me,

for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me;  
they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;  
my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me.  
My hands and feet have shriveled; I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me;

they divide my clothes among themselves,

and for my clothing they cast lots.

(Verse 19) But you, O LORD, do not be far away!  
O my help, come quickly to my aid!  
Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my life from the power of the dog!  
Save me from the mouth of the lion!

From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.  
I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:  
You who fear the LORD, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!  
For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;  
he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.  
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.  
May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.  
For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
and I shall live for him.  
Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the Lord,  
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.

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

**Session 11: Tues., May 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Jerusalem: "The Resurrection of Jesus"**

**Mark 16:1-8**

Thank You for join us for this Study through  
The Gospel of Mark.

We hope that you have both  
enjoyed it and learned something new  
about the Gospel of Mark  
and Jesus – our Lord and Christ.