

FELLOWSHIP BIBLE STUDIES

(Reading the Bible together)



Gospel of Mark (II)

SHALOM CHURCH, SINGAPORE
(Upholding the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith)

GOSPEL OF MARK (2)

INTRODUCTION AND LESSON 11

In the first ten lessons of the Mark's Gospel study, we were studying from chapters 1 - 8:31. Before we start the second part of the Gospel, let us think again of some of the things which we have learnt.

The Gospel is the good news about Jesus Christ. After He was baptised, He chose 12 disciples to be with Him and to learn from Him. They travelled with Him to the towns and villages. Jesus taught them and the people about God. He did miracles, for example, healing sick people and feeding many people from only a little food. All the people were talking about Him and questioning how He was able to do these things. In Mark 8:29, Jesus said to the disciples, "Who do people say that I am? And who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ." He believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God.

Since the disciples now knew truly who Jesus was, He began to teach them that He would die on the cross. We learn about this as we begin to study the second part of the Gospel.

If you did not study the first book of 10 lessons, it would help you if you read Mark 1:1 - 8:31 before you start this study. Mark's Gospel is God's Word. As you study it, ask God to teach you. Pray that you will learn more about the Lord Jesus Christ, and that God will help you to love Him more.

Questions for lesson 11

Memory verse: Psalm 119:18

Day 1 Read the Introduction and Lesson 11.

Mark 3:13-19

1. What were the names of Jesus' 12 disciples?

2. Which one said that Jesus was the Christ?

3. By saying that, what did he mean?

Day 2 Mark 8:31-33

4. What did Jesus say would happen to Him?

5. Why did Jesus rebuke Peter?

6. Where did Peter's thoughts come from?

7. What was God's will for Jesus?

Day 3 Mark 8:34-38

8. If we want to follow Christ, what must we do?

9. "To carry the cross" - what do you think this means?

10. To save your life, what must you do?

11. (a) Are you ever ashamed to witness about Jesus before people?

(b) What will happen to those who are ashamed of Him?

Day 4 Mark 9:1-13

12. What amazing things happened on the mountain?

13. What did the voice from the cloud say?

14. Do you know who Moses and Elijah were?

Day 5 Mark 9:14-29

15. Why had the father brought his son to Jesus?

16. What did the man need to do to receive Jesus' help (v.23)?

17. When the man said, "I believe, help my unbelief," what was he asking for?

18. For the disciples to be able to do this kind of miracle, what did they need to do?

Day 6 Mark 9:30-41

19. What were the disciples arguing about?

20. If you were a person who is "the servant of all" (v.35), what would you do
(a) in your church?
(b) in your home?

Do you do those things?

Day 7 Mark 9:42-50

21. To cause a little one to stumble is a very bad thing. Can you give examples of ways we would cause a child or a new Christian to stumble?

22. Do you think Jesus really wanted us to harm our bodies? Then what do you think He meant in these verses?

LESSON 12

Mark 8:31-9:50

Jesus and the cross

As we begin the second part of Mark's Gospel, we learn the real reason why Jesus came to this earth. The main reason wasn't to feed the hungry, it wasn't to heal the sick, it wasn't to be an example to us by His life, and it wasn't even to teach the truth. He did all these things, but the main thing He came to do was, by His death and resurrection, to defeat sin

and Satan. Because the disciples now understood that Jesus was the Messiah, He started to teach them about what would happen to Him. He said

1. He would suffer a lot.
2. Leaders would oppose Him.
3. He would be killed.
4. He would rise from the dead.

Peter said that Jesus should not die. But Jesus knew that this idea came from Satan. God's plan for Jesus was His death. Jesus said that we too must take up our cross and follow Him. What is a cross useful for? For dying. We must die to our own desires. If we do that, we can live to please God.

Jesus is changed - 9:1-8

Jesus said to His disciples, "Before you die, some of you will see the glory of God's Kingdom." Six days later, for Peter, James and John this word was fulfilled. Having gone with Jesus up the mountain, they saw His appearance change. They saw Moses and Elijah who lived in Old Testament times as they talked with Jesus. They heard God's voice as He spoke from heaven. Jesus had begun to prepare Himself for His death, and all that happened on the mountain that day would have helped and strengthened Him.

Peter was astonished at what happened and he wanted to stay there with Moses and Elijah. But it didn't happen. Only Jesus stayed with them. He alone is the One who never leaves us.

The return from the mountain - 9:9-32

The prophet Malachi wrote, "I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes" (Malachi 4:5). When the disciples asked Jesus about this, He explained that "Elijah" had already come. He was speaking about John the Baptist, the one sent to prepare the way for the Lord.

After they came down the mountain, Jesus and the three disciples met a man whose son was possessed by a demon. They had seen wonderful things on the mountain, but now they met difficulties and problems again. Sometimes in our lives, we have times when we receive spiritual blessings. But afterwards, problems and difficulties come to us again. Nevertheless, the Lord will not leave us, and by faith (9:23) and through prayer (9:29) we can receive God's power and help. The man who had come to Jesus for help knew his faith was small, and asked Jesus to help his unbelief (9:24). But the main thing is not that our faith is big, but that we put our faith in a great God who is able to do more than we think.

Jesus teaches - 9:33-50

The disciples were quarrelling saying, "Who of us is the greatest?" Jesus said, "The person who chooses the lowest place for himself and the one who serves others is greater than all." He told them that serving even children pleases God (v.36-37). Added to this He revealed that to cause anyone who believes on Him to stumble is a great sin.

Likewise, if we have in our own lives things that cause us to stumble and lead us to sin, we must destroy them.

In this lesson we learn what it means to follow Jesus:

1. We must deny ourselves and carry our cross (8:34-35).
2. We must have faith (9:23).
3. We must humble ourselves (9:35).
4. We must cut off from our lives things that lead us to sin (9:43-48).

Are you ready to do these things?

Questions for lesson 12

Memory verse: Mark 8:34

Day 1 Read the notes for Lesson 12.

1. Write something from the notes that helped you.
2. Of the four things listed at the end of the notes, which is hardest for you?

Day 2 Mark 10:1-9

3. Since the beginning of creation, what have been God's aims concerning marriage?
4. Why had Moses allowed some men to divorce their wives?
5. What warning does Jesus give here (v.9)?

Day 3 Mark 10:10-12 Matthew 5:32

6. What does Jesus say about divorce?

7. Do you think these things are true for our times?

Day 4 Mark 10:13-16

8. Why was Jesus angry?

9. Because He loved children, what things did He do?

10. Can you think of things you can do to help children, - your own children, and especially those who are not in your family?

Day 5 Mark 10:17-22 1 John 5:11-13

11. From the verses in 1 John, answer the young man's question, "What must I do to have eternal life?"

12. What prevented the young man from following Jesus?

13. Are you sure you have eternal life?

14. Is there anything in your life that keeps you from receiving eternal life from the Lord Jesus?

Day 6 Mark 10:23-31

15. What could be the reason it is hard for rich people to enter God's Kingdom?

16. Is it possible for a rich person to be saved?

17. What rewards will be given to those who give up home or family for the sake of the Lord Jesus?

Day 7 Mark 10:32-34

18. Where were Jesus and the disciples going?

19. What did Jesus reveal would happen there?

LESSON 13

Mark 10:1-34 **People come to Jesus**

The Pharisees ask about divorce - 10:1-9

The Pharisees asked about divorce, not because they wanted a good answer to their question, but because they wanted to test Jesus. However, in His answer Jesus taught us a necessary lesson about marriage. He revealed that God's plan is that a man and a woman who marry live together until death. And He warned us that, because married people have been joined together by God (v.9), we must not do anything to separate them.

The disciples ask about divorce - 10:10-12

The disciples, thinking what Jesus taught was too hard, asked Him about it. We need to read His answer very carefully. Many people count divorce as a light thing, but Jesus did not teach that. Therefore, those who are preparing for marriage need to seek God's will in prayer so that they not make a mistake.

Parents bring their children to Jesus - 10:13-16

According to the disciples' opinion, to receive children was to waste time. But Jesus said, "Let them come to Me, don't prevent them." Even when they are small, children need to come near to the Lord Jesus. For a little child, to believe is not hard, and if we teach him now about the Lord, he can follow Him for all of his life. You parents, have you given your children over to the Lord? Do you pray for them every day? Do you teach them about the Lord? He wants them to come to Him while they are still children. But He doesn't love only the children of believers. He wants other children to come to Him too. What can you do for the children who live around you? Is there a way you can teach them about the Lord Jesus?

The young man comes to Jesus - 10:17-31

This young man came running to Jesus. He knelt before Him and he called Him "Good Master". Although he had kept God's commandments ever since he was a child, he knew he did not yet have eternal life. But even though he was a good man with a good desire, and although he gave honour to Jesus, he went away without receiving eternal life. The reason was that he loved his riches more than the Lord. Do you love the Lord Jesus more than anything else? He wants us to have eternal life. That is why He gave His life for us. He also wants us to be sure that we have eternal life. If we have trusted in Him as our Saviour, we are His for ever, and no-one can separate us from Him. "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish: no-one can snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:28).

The disciples were amazed at what Jesus said about rich people. He did not say it is impossible for them to enter God's kingdom. But He knew that many rich people trust in

their riches instead of trusting in God. However, all who have given up all for Jesus' sake will be rewarded.

Questions for lesson 13

Memory verse: John 10:28

Day 1 Read the notes for Lesson 13.

1. (a) To believe is not difficult for _____.

(b) To believe is difficult for _____.

2. If a friend said to you, "I think I have eternal life but I am not certain," so that he can be certain, what answer would you give to him? What verses would you read to him from the Bible?

Day 2 Mark 10:35-45

3. What did James and John ask from Jesus?

4. The other disciples were angry with them. Can you think why?

5. Give 2 reasons why Jesus came into this world.

Day 3 Mark 10:46-52

6. When the people said to Bartimaeus, "Be quiet" why did he refuse?

7. Try to think of some lessons about prayer that we can learn from Bartimaeus' story.

Day 4 Mark 11:1-6

8. What did Jesus ask the two disciples to do?

9. What answer were the disciples to give if people asked them, "Why are you taking the donkey?"

Day 5 Mark 11:7-11

10. Who was David (v.10)?

11. Why did the people compare Jesus to David?

12. What things did the people do to honour Jesus?

Day 6 Mark 11:12-19

13. What were people doing in the temple?

14. According to God's plan what should be done there?

15. As we see in v.15-16, what sort of man was Jesus?

Day 7 Mark 11:20-26

16. For our prayers to be answered, what two things are necessary?
(a)

(b)

17. In v.23 when Jesus spoke of a "mountain", what did He mean?

18. What are the "mountains" in your life?

19. How can you remove that "mountain"?

LESSON 14

Mark 10:35 - 11:26

The road to Jerusalem

Two brothers come with a request - 10:32-45

Jesus was speaking to His disciples about His death and suffering. But James and John were thinking about themselves. They wanted the highest position in God's kingdom. Jesus explained to them saying, "The person who is greatest among God's people is the one who serves." Jesus is the Master, but He came to serve, and to give His life for us. Ask yourself these questions, "Am I like the Lord Jesus, wanting to serve God and other people? Or am I like James and John, always wanting the best things for myself?"

The blind man comes to Jesus - 10:46-52

Bartimaeus believed that Jesus could heal him. So, although people tried to prevent him, he did not stop calling out to Jesus for help. When he called Jesus "Son of David", he showed that he believed Jesus was the great King, the Messiah. Because of his faith, he received the answer to his prayer. If you have received the answer to your prayer, just as Bartimaeus followed Jesus on the road, so you need to follow Him too.

The people praise Jesus - 11:1-11

Until now, Jesus had never let the crowds honour Him. But now He let them witness to His being a king. He sent two of His disciples to bring a young donkey. As they untied the donkey, perhaps the people who were watching would say, "They are stealing it." Even so, the disciples obeyed Jesus' command. Even if other people think bad things about us, we should always be ready to obey the Lord Jesus.

Many people were in Jerusalem for the Passover. They stood on the streets, shouting praises to Jesus as He rode on the donkey into the city. They understood that He was a king like His ancestor David. But they did not understand that His kingdom was not of this world. They thought He would save them from their rulers the Romans.

Jesus cleans out the temple - 11:15-18

The Jews came to the temple to bring sacrifices to God. They needed to buy animals or doves to give as sacrifices. But the sellers were selling inside the temple. They were also making a profit for themselves by asking high prices. There were others there who were changing the people's money for the special money that was used for offerings in the temple. Jesus was angry when He saw them doing these things in God's house. It should have been a holy place, but they had made it like a market.

The fig tree - 11:12-14, 20-25

Because the fig tree died so quickly, Peter was amazed. Jesus said that our prayers will be answered if we have faith. Sometimes the things we ask from God seem as big as mountains. But nothing is impossible for Him. Jesus also reminds us that when we pray, we need to forgive those who have done things against us. God forgives us and we must forgive other people. Have you received the answer to your prayer? If you have not, ask yourself these two questions, "Is there doubt in my heart? Do I need to forgive someone?"

Questions for lesson 14

Memory verse: Mark 11:24

Day 1 Read the notes for Lesson 14.

1. Write something you learnt from last week's lesson.

2. As Mark 11:24 tells us, to receive what we ask we need faith. In last week's lesson, who was the person who had that sort of faith?

Day 2 Mark 11:27-33

3. If Jesus had said, "My authority is from God," do you think the Jewish leaders would have believed him?

4. If these leaders had been truly God's people, which two people would they have believed?

Day 3 Mark 12:1-5

5. (a) Who prepared the vineyard?

(b) Whose was the fruit?

6. What did the farmers do to all who were sent to them?

Day 4 Mark 12:6-12

7. In the parable, if the owner of the vineyard represents God, who is the son?

8. Which people in the parable represent the Jewish leaders?

9. Why didn't they arrest Jesus?

Day 5 Mark 12:13-17 Romans 13:6-7

10. Why did the Jewish leaders come to Jesus?

11. Should Christians pay taxes to the government? Why?

12. What else do we have to do?

Day 6 Mark 12:18-27

13. Why were the Sadducees wrong in what they believed? (v.24)

14. How can we be sure that what we believe is true?

15. What did Jesus say to prove that the dead rise?

Day 7 Mark 12:28-34

16. To what extent are we to love God? What does that mean?

17. "To love your neighbour as yourself" what does that mean to you in your home, your work, your church?

LESSON 15

Mark 11:27 - 12:34

People question Jesus

The Jewish leaders question Jesus - 11:27-33

These men had studied the Old Testament and taught others about their religion. But they had not believed that John the Baptist was from God. Therefore Jesus, knowing that they would not believe that His power was from God, did not answer their question. If we do not believe what God has revealed to us up until now, He will not show us extra things.

The parable of the vineyard - 12:1-12

Every part of this parable has a meaning. The vineyard is the people of Israel. The owner is God. The farmers are the religious leaders of Israel. The servants sent to collect the fruit are the Old Testament prophets who were opposed by the religious leaders of their day. The son of the owner is Jesus the Messiah. Jesus knew that the religious leaders planned to kill Him. They had not listened to the prophets and they wanted to kill Him.

The question about taxes - 12:13-17

Although they asked the question about taxes to trap Him, Jesus gave a wise answer which teaches us a great lesson. We ought to pay what is right to our government. But we must remember that we must first give to God what we ought to give Him.

The question about the resurrection - 12:18-27

The Sadducees quoted from the Bible, but Jesus showed them that they did not really know God's Word. We need to study the Bible carefully so that we know the truth. It's not enough to quote a verse from here and one from there. The One who teaches us the truth is the Holy Spirit. We need His help so that we do not follow wrong teaching.

Jesus proved from the Bible that the dead do rise. On another occasion He said, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). Do you believe that you will be raised with Him to eternal life?

The greatest commandment - 12:28-34

Jesus teaches that first of all we are to love God. We should love Him with every part of ourselves. He loved us to the extent that He gave His Son to die for us. In return, we ought

to love Him completely. We should also love other people just as we love ourselves. The man was right when he said that to obey these two commandments was more necessary than to fulfill religious acts (v.33).

Questions for lesson 15

Memory verse: Mark 12:30

Day 1 Read the notes for Lesson 15.

1. What profitable thing did you learn from the notes?

2. In order that we not be deceived by false teaching,
 - (a) what must we do?

 - (b) whose help do we need?

Day 2 Mark 12:35-40

3. Who is greater, David or the Messiah?

4. What do you think was the main aim in life for the religious leaders?

5. What do you think our main aim in life should be?

6. What is your main aim in life?

Day 3 Mark 12:41-44

7. Was the widow's offering a lot of money?
8. Why then did Jesus say she gave more than everyone else?
9. What lesson can you learn from this?

Day 4 Mark 13:1-4

10. What did Jesus say would happen to the temple?
11. What 2 questions did the disciples ask Jesus about this?

Day 5 Mark 13:5-13

12. In His answer to the disciples' question, Jesus spoke not only of the destroying of the temple, but also of the end of the world and of His coming again. What are some of the things that will happen before then?
13. What does v10 mean?
14. Have all the peoples in your country heard the gospel?

15. So that those who have not heard hear, what can you do?

Day 6 Mark 13:14-27

16. Who is the Son of Man?

17. How will His coming be?

18. What will the angels do?

19. When you think about what is going to happen, are you afraid?

Day 7 Mark 13:28-37

20. When will Jesus return?

21. What did Jesus tell us we must do?

22. What do you think that means?

LESSON 16

Mark 12:35 - 13:37

Jesus at the temple

Jesus speaks about the religious leaders - 12:35-40

The Jewish leaders knew that the Messiah would be born from the family of King David. But because David said, "The Messiah is my Lord", it is clear that the Messiah is greater than David.

Because the aim of the religious leaders was to get honour and praise for themselves, Jesus warned the people about them. Even religious people can be proud and selfish. Jesus said that such people will be punished.

The widow's offering - 12:41-44

As Jesus watched the people bringing their offerings at the temple, He saw rich people putting in a lot of money. But He said to the disciples, "The poor widow put in more than anyone else". The reason He said this was that, although the money she gave was only a small amount, she put in everything she had. There was nothing left for herself. God sees not only how much we give to Him, but also how much we keep for ourselves. Do you give generously to God because you love Him? Or do you keep your money back for your own benefit?

Jesus teaches about the future 13:1-37

When the disciples spoke about the wonderful temple buildings, Jesus told them they would all be destroyed. This happened in A.D. 70 when enemies of the Jews came and destroyed the whole city. Jesus told the disciples about the suffering that would come at that time (v.14-18). He also told them about things that would happen at the end of the world. He said He would return to this earth to take His people to be with Him in heaven.

Before He returns, the gospel must reach to all the peoples of the world. The word "peoples" means, not every person, but every tribe. Until now, the gospel has reached many different tribes, but there are still many who have not heard. In your country there are those who have not heard. In order to speed the day of His coming (2 Peter 3:12), we must bring the gospel to these people. Do you pray for those evangelists who have gone to those who have not heard the gospel? Do you pray that others will be sent? If God wills it, are you willing to go yourself? Do you support this work by giving money?

No-one knows when Jesus will return. Therefore He told us that we must always be ready. Because the only ones who will go with Him are those who have been cleansed from their sins, we need first of all to trust in the Lord Jesus who died on the cross to save us. Are you certain that you will go with Him when He returns? You can be certain. Jesus said, "He who hears My word and believes on Him who sent Me has eternal life. He has passed from death to life and will not be condemned" John 5:24. Having believed in the Lord for

salvation, we need to be ready each day for His coming. If He returned today, would you be ashamed? So that we can receive Him with joy when he comes, let us live holy lives.

Questions for lesson 16

Memory verse : Mark 13:10

Day 1 Read the notes for Lesson 16.

1. What profitable thing did you learn from the notes?
2. Who will go with Jesus when He returns?
3. What happened in A.D.70?

Day 2 Mark 14:1-9

4. How did the woman show her love to Jesus?
5. How can you show your love to Him? (John 14:15)
6. How much did the perfume cost?
7. What did Jesus say about what the woman had done?

Day 3 Mark 14:10-16

8. Who was Judas?

9. What did Judas plan to do?

10. Judas appeared to be a friend of Jesus. What warning can we take from this?

Day 4 Mark 14:17-21

11. What did Jesus say that astonished His disciples?

12. Who knew that Jesus was talking about Judas?

13. What did Jesus say about the one who would betray Him?

Day 5 Mark 14:22-25

14. When Jesus said about the bread, "This is my body", what do you think He meant?

15. What did He say about His blood?

Day 6 Mark 14:26-31

16. What did Jesus say about the disciples?

17. As these verses show us, what sort of man was Peter?

18. What did Jesus say Peter would do?

Day 7 Mark 14:32-42

19. What was the main desire in Jesus' life?

20. Is this also your desire?

21. Why was Jesus greatly troubled?

22. In His trouble, even His friends did not support Him. What did they do?

LESSON 17

Mark 14:1-42 **Jesus and the disciples**

A woman's gift to Jesus - 14:1-9

Like the woman who gave the two small coins in the temple, this woman gave all she could. The woman in the temple was poor and gave all she had. This woman gave out of her riches. Both women were praised by Jesus. The reason this woman gave the expensive perfume was that she understood that Jesus was soon going to die. The custom of the Jews was to pour perfume on a dead body. This woman did it for Jesus before He died. By doing this, she showed her love. Because the Lord Jesus loves us, He gave His life which is the greatest gift of all. In return, we can give our complete selves to Him.

Judas' betrayal - 14:10-11

Judas was one of Jesus' close friends, but now he became His enemy. Why? He had hoped that Jesus would become a great king in Jerusalem. Because he was the disciple who looked after the money, he probably thought, "When Jesus becomes king, I will be rich and great." But now he knew that this would not happen. Satan entered into him, and Judas made plans to help Jesus' enemies arrest Him. Until this time, because he had not separated from the other disciples, they did not know the evil in his heart. But being with other believers is not enough. God sees the things in our hearts that they don't see. We must be those who truly love the Lord.

The last supper - 14:12-31

When the Jews had been slaves in Egypt, God had saved them. So that they remember what God had done for them, He established the passover for them. So that the disciples not forget what He would do for them, Jesus gave them a new reminder. This is the Lord's supper. The broken bread reminds us of His body that was broken on the cross. The wine reminds us of His blood that was poured out. God wants us to think often of what our Saviour suffered for us.

Peter thought he was better than the other disciples. He said, "Even if the others leave You, I won't." 1 Corinthians 10:12 says, "Let the one who thinks he stands, watch that he doesn't fall". We are weak. Without God's help we will fall. We must not boast and trust in our own strength.

Gethsemane - 14:32-42

Jesus was not afraid of death. But He knew that great suffering would come to Him when He died on the cross. He knew, that not only would He suffer in His body, but that He would be punished for our sins. When we see His great distress as He prayed in Gethsemane, we begin to realise how great His suffering was. But more than anything else, He wanted to do God's will. Can you say, "Whatever happens, I want to do God's will"?

While Jesus was praying, Peter and the other disciples fell asleep. When He was distressed they did not help Him. And they were not prepared for the temptation that would come upon them. Jesus said to them, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation" 14:38. We need to remember that too. Through prayer we can receive God's help to overcome temptation.

Questions for lesson 17

Memory verse : Mark 14:38

Day 1 Read the notes for Lesson 17.

1. What profitable thing did you learn from the notes?

2. Because the disciples were weak, what did they do? 14:10, 29-31, 37-41.

3. What lessons can you learn from them?

Day 2 Mark 14:43-52

4. By whom were the people sent who came to arrest Jesus?

5. How did Judas greet Jesus? What do you think of this?

6. To explain all that was happening, what reason did Jesus give? (v.49)

7. When He was arrested, what did all the disciples do?

Day 3 Mark 14:53-59

8. When the other disciples ran away, what did Peter do?

9. Some people gave evidence against Jesus. Why wasn't their evidence believed?

Day 4 Mark 14:60-65

10. When Jesus said, "I am", who did He say He is?

11. What else did He say about Himself?

12. Why did they say, "He deserves to die"?

13. What did they do to show their hatred?

Day 5 Mark 14:66-72

14. Why do you think Peter said, "I don't know Jesus"?
15. If you openly tell people that you are a follower of the Lord Jesus, what trouble might come to you?
16. Are you ashamed to speak about Him?

Day 6 Mark 15:1-5

17. Do you know who Pilate was?
18. What question did he ask Jesus?
19. Why was Pilate amazed?

Day 7 Mark 15:6-15

20. What was the Roman governor's custom at the Passover?
21. Why was Barabbas in prison?

22. What is the true answer to Pilate's question in v.14?

23. Why did Pilate give permission for Jesus to be crucified?

LESSON 18

Mark 14:43 - 15:15

Jesus' arrest and trial

The arrest - 14:43-51

The Jewish religious leaders sent men to arrest Jesus. Judas knew where they would find Him. He was now Jesus' enemy but he kissed Him and called Him "Teacher". Today there are still people who say, "I love Jesus" but who do things that show that their words are not true. Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to Me 'Lord, Lord', will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven" Matthew 7:21.

Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to die. He understood that the prophecies written in the Old Testament were now being fulfilled. So He did not stop the soldiers from arresting Him.

Because the disciples were very frightened, they all ran away in the darkness. The young man who ran away naked is thought to be Mark who wrote this Gospel.

The trial before the Jewish leaders - 14:53-65

Although it was still night, the high priest and the religious leaders met for the trial. The witnesses told lies. After they had judged against Him, they spat on Him, punched Him and beat Him. In no way was it a just judgment. Jesus had the death sentence brought against Him because He said, "I am the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God." Although they did not believe this, He spoke the truth.

Peter's denial - 14:66-72

Because Peter wanted to know what happened to Jesus, he tried to keep close to Him. But now he was with those who had captured Jesus. Fearing they would capture him too, he said about Jesus, "I don't know Him." If we must be with those who are Jesus' enemies, we need to ask God to give us strength so that we don't deny Him as Peter did. Because we fear what people will do to us or say about us, like Peter, we often fail to witness for the Lord. But to obey God is much more important than to please other people.

When Peter heard the cock crow, he remembered what Jesus had said. He was filled with sorrow. But the Lord Jesus had mercy on him and forgave him. Even if our sin is great, if we repent and tell God about it, He promises to forgive us.

The trial before Pilate - 15:1-15

Pilate was the Roman governor. Because the Jews were ruled from Rome, they could not condemn someone to die without the Roman governor's permission. Pilate knew that Jesus did not deserve to die. Every year at the Jews' festival, the Passover, he would free a prisoner. He wanted to free Jesus, but the priests told the people to ask for Barabbas instead. Pilate should have saved Jesus from death. But because he wanted to please the crowd, he sentenced Jesus to be crucified. We can easily see that Pilate did not do right. But we also are tempted to be weak. Only with God's help can we do what is right.

Questions for lesson 18

Memory verse : Matthew 7:21

Day 1 Read the notes for Lesson 18.

1. What helped you in the notes?
2. What lessons can we learn from Peter's story?

Day 2 Mark 15:16-20

3. Make a list of the things the soldiers did to Jesus.
4. Read Isaiah 53:7-8. What was the reason He suffered?

Day 3 Mark 15:21-24

5. Who carried the cross?

6. Why do you think Jesus could not carry the cross Himself?

7. Perhaps Jesus' clothes were the only things of His own that He had. What happened to them?

Day 4 Mark 15:25-32

8. Three groups of people insulted Jesus. Who were they?

9. They said, "He can't save Himself." Do you think that was true? Why did He let Himself be crucified?

10. If He had come down from the cross, do you think the religious leaders would have believed? Give reasons for your answer.

Day 5 Mark 15:33-37

11. How long was it dark?

12. From all the things that He suffered, only one thing made Him cry out. What was it?

13. Can you think why Jesus was left alone? (v.34)

Day 6 Mark 15:38-41

14. Who do you think tore the curtain? Can you give a reason for your answer?
15. All the people that Mark tells us about who were watching when Jesus died were _____.(v.40-41)
16. What work had some of the women been doing for Jesus?

Day 7 Mark 15:42-47

17. Who was the man who asked for Jesus' body?
18. How do we know for sure that Jesus was dead?
19. What was the grave like?
20. Who were the faithful ones who were there when Jesus was buried?

LESSON 19

Mark 15:16-47

Jesus' suffering

The soldiers mock Jesus - 15:16-20

Jesus' disciples had run away and left Him alone. The Jews had said, "Crucify Him". Now the Roman soldiers made fun of Him in a most cruel way. No-one helped Him. How alone and despised He must have felt. He suffered all of this because He loves us and wanted us to be reconciled to God.

The crucifixion - 15:21-41

Because of all He had suffered, Jesus was too weak to carry the heavy cross and the soldiers forced a man passing by on the road to carry it. When Jesus was crucified, although the pain in His body was great, there was other suffering as well. People showed their hatred for Him by shouting insulting words at Him. But the greatest suffering of all was because God left Him alone. The Bible tells us, "Jesus carried our sins on the cross". God's anger was on Him because He was carrying our sins. That is why God left Him alone. Because we sin, we deserve to be punished, but He took the punishment in our place.

When Jesus had completed all that was necessary for us to be saved and find forgiveness, He gave His life back to God and died.

God had said to the Jews, "I will live among you". In the temple in Jerusalem there was a special holy room which was God's dwelling place. But a heavy curtain kept people from going into this holy room and near to God. When Jesus died, God tore that curtain from top to bottom. Now there is nothing to stop us from coming close to Him. If we trust in the death of the Lord Jesus to take away our sins, God receives us and we can come near to Him.

Jesus had some faithful friends who stayed with Him until the end. The ones Mark mentions are all women. We don't know much about them, but they were always quietly serving Him. Many people today quietly serve the Lord in different ways. Perhaps other people don't praise them, but the Lord sees and knows their service and faithfulness. "Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58

Joseph of Arimathea was another quiet believer. He was one of the Jewish leaders. Perhaps up until now he had been afraid to say that he was Jesus' follower. But now he boldly asked permission to take His body down from the cross. Do you find it hard to tell people that you are a believer? Jesus said, "If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words----, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His Father's glory with the holy angels." Mark 8:38

Questions for lesson 19

Memory verse: 1 Peter 2:24

Day 1 Read the notes for Lesson 19.

1. What did you learn from last week's study?

2. Why did Jesus die? (1 Peter 3:18 and 2:24)

Day 2 Mark 16:1-3

3. When did the women go to the grave?

4. Why had they not gone on Saturday?

5. Why were they going there?

6. What were they saying as they went?

Day 3 Mark 16:4-6

7. What amazing things did the women find at the tomb?

8. When the women had come to the tomb, what did they think they would see?

9. When they came, did they hope, saying, "Jesus is alive"?

Day 4 Mark 16:5-8

10. What was the good news the young man gave?
11. What proof was there that this was true?
12. To whom were they to tell the good news?

Day 5 Mark 16:9-14

13. Who was the first one to see Jesus after He rose?
14. Why do you think the disciples did not believe that He had risen?
15. Why did Jesus rebuke the disciples?
16. What lesson can we learn from this?

Day 6 Mark 16:15-18

17. What command did Jesus give to His followers?

18. To whom are we to teach the gospel?

19. Among those who live near you, are there those who have not yet heard the gospel? Who will tell them?

20. What will happen to those who do not believe?

Day 7 Mark 16:19-20

21. Where is Jesus now?

22. After Jesus had ascended, how was the good news spread?

23. Who is responsible for spreading the news now?

24. Do we have to do it alone? (v20)

LESSON 20

Mark 16:1-20

The resurrection

The women at the tomb - 16:1-8

The women were the last at the cross and the first at the tomb. They planned to put spices on Jesus' dead body. They had no thought that Jesus was alive. No-one thought that. But when they arrived at the tomb, they found it empty. The body was not there. The angel told them, "He has risen. He is not here." Our Saviour is alive. Death could not hold Him. Because of this we do not need to fear death. For those who believe, death is a door that takes us to life.

In v.7, the women were told to tell the disciples and Peter. Peter was a disciple, so why do you think his name was mentioned? Like the other disciples, Peter was sorrowing because His Lord had died. But, more than that, he was full of sorrow because he had denied the Lord, and he hadn't had an opportunity to ask Jesus for forgiveness. The Lord knew his sorrow, and sent the message to him about His resurrection. In the same way, the Lord Jesus knows all about you and your sin and your sorrow. He doesn't condemn you, but wants to bring you His forgiveness and love.

Jesus appears to the believers - 16:9-20

These verses remind us that faith is necessary. We have not seen Jesus alive with our own eyes, but we must believe the words of those who have. Jesus rebuked those who did not believe the witness of those who had seen Him. He rose from the dead and He is now with His Father in heaven. He has given us, His followers, the work of telling the gospel to others. He wants everyone to hear it. Just as He worked with the disciples, in the same way, as we tell others He works with us.

You have heard the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Have you believed it? Is it changing your life? Now you are to tell it to others.

"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." Mark 16:15

"Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed His word by the signs that accompanied it." Mark 16:20

MEMORY VERSES FOR MARK'S GOSPEL

11. Psalm 119:18

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

12. Mark 8:34
Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."
13. John 10:28
I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.
14. Mark 11:24
Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.
15. Mark 12:30
Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.
16. Mark 13:10
And the gospel must first be preached to all nations.
17. Mark 14:38
Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.
18. Matthew 7:21
Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
19. 1 Peter 2:24
He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.