

ANSWERS Peace Lutheran Weekly Walk - Mark #8

Peace Lutheran invites all members and guests to follow a weekly Bible reading series at home. For past handouts and suggestions for leading a family devotion, go to <https://peacewels.org/weekly-walk/>.

Questions about the readings can be addressed to either pastor or emailed to weeklywalk@peacewels.org

Prayer: Lord Jesus, through your gospel promises, help us to watch and pray so that we do not fall into temptation. Help us to watch ourselves and battle against our sinful nature which is all too eager to follow the devil and the world and lead us astray. Help us to watch You—to see Your sinless life and willing sacrifice that save us and renew us to live for You. Amen.

Day 1: Mark 13:21-37

1. Why has Jesus told us all these signs of the end times?
So that we may be on our guard against the attacks of false teachings, and know these things in advance (vs. 23) so that we are not shocked or surprised or think that things are beyond God's control when we see such things, for this shows us everything is happening the way Christ has told us to expect it.
2. How do many of these signs and warnings of the end times make you feel? Many of these things can sound so frightening to us, to think of the world as we know it ending.
3. How does what Jesus tells us in verse 27 and verse 31 bring us comfort? Jesus will keep His promise to send His angels to gather His believers whom His grace has chosen. He will bring you to be with Him in the joys of His everlasting Kingdom. Vs. 31 - Since Jesus' words never pass away, all His promises to take care of His people and rescue us stand and will never disappoint.
4. What can you automatically know if someone tries to tell you they know the exact date and time of the end of the world (as many have done in history)? It tells us that person is a false teacher, since it contradicts Jesus' clear words that no one on this earth knows that day or hour of Christ's return.
5. What does Jesus encourage us to do in the last portion of our reading? How do we do this? "To keep watch." Watch ourselves and the dangers to our souls that come from both outside from false teachers, the devil's lies and the world's temptations, and our own treacherous

sinful hearts. Watch Jesus and His promises to forgive us and give us strength through Word and Sacrament. He will not fail you!

Day 2: Mark 14:1-11

1. When did Jesus' enemies say they wanted to kill him? Not during the Feast (Passover and Unleavened Bread—Passover begins the longer feast of unleavened bread).
2. Since Jesus will die at a time different than their plan, what does that tell us about who is ultimately in control? It tells us God is control of events, and evildoers cannot undo His plans and purposes. Jesus will die during the Festival, because of the fulfillment of the Passover (see tomorrow's reading for more on this).
3. Why did this woman do what she did for Jesus? She anointed Jesus' body before-hand for burial, making her one of the very few followers of Jesus that understood and remembered His words about the death and resurrection. Her generous and beautiful offering shows her love and appreciation for His saving work. (From John 12:1-8 it would seem this woman is Mary of Bethany and that here Mark is recording something that took place earlier than the time reference in verse 1 to help us connect the dots to how the enemies' plotting was helped out by Judas' greed which was tipped over the breaking point by Mary of Bethany's actions).
4. How are you this very day, as you read this section, a fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy in verse 9?! Jesus promised that whenever the gospel is preached in the whole world (including your home as you read this) what the woman did would be told. God has made you part of the keeping of that promise this very day as you read this gospel!
5. What warning and lesson is there for us in Judas' betrayal? If Judas, one of the 12 apostles who had the best pastor and teacher there is in Jesus for 3 years could go astray and fall, then we too need to listen to the Bible's warning that if you think you are standing firm, be careful you do not fall! Let us therefore take to heart Jesus' call to keep watch and cling to His promises for the strength we need, since His Word will never fail!

Day 3: Mark 14:12-21

1. What was the Passover? It was a special yearly meal celebrated by Israel, God's Old Testament people. It involved both symbolic foods but also teaching about the past deliverance of God. Central to the meal was roast lamb and unleavened bread.

2. What past events did it recall? See Exodus 12 for help. Passover recalled how around 1446 BC the LORD delivered the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt with the 10th plague, the death of the firstborn. Those who trusted God's promise were saved from the plague by putting the blood of a lamb on their doorposts, and the plague of death literally passed over the houses where there was the blood of the lamb. They ate the meal in the houses in haste with unleavened bread, and that very night the Israelites were released from slavery. So Passover focused on the blood of a lamb that delivered from death and slavery.
3. To what event did it also point? See 1 Corinthians 5:7 for help. Jesus is the Passover Lamb who was sacrificed to save us. As John 1:29 adds, He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The blood of Jesus shed for us saves us from eternal death and frees us from slavery to sin. Luther put this beautifully in an Easter hymn he wrote: "Here the true Paschal Lamb we see, Whom God so freely gave us; He died on the accursed tree—So strong his love—to save us. See, his blood now marks our door; Faith points to it; death passes o'er, And Satan cannot harm us. Alleluia! Alleluia!" - from *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands* (Christian Worship Supplement hymn number 720, verse 5).
4. What does the question the disciples all ask reveal they understood about themselves? By asking the question "Surely not I?" they were truly wondering, perhaps understanding their sinful nature that any of them could be capable of such a horrible thing. Note, this understanding will be totally gone as they all later denied that they would ever desert Him. But so it goes with our faith as well as we have much sinful weakness, one day we "get" an important Biblical truth, and another day we struggle with it.

Day 4: Mark 14:22-31

1. What is Jesus talking about when He speaks of the New Testament (or New Covenant)? For help see Jeremiah 31:31-34. This is a one-sided agreement, where the Lord does everything. (The covenant that had been made with Israel at Sinai was broken by the Israelites). The bottom line of this covenant spoken of in Jeremiah 31:34 is the "Bottom Line" of the covenant: "I will forgive their guilt and I will remember their sins no more." The EHV translation uses the word Testament, which is another valid translation. A Testament is used as in "Last Will and Testament" - which is a promise that wills one's

possessions to another as their inheritance. This is another beautiful picture, meaning that Jesus is willing His very self to us, His body and blood and the forgiveness they will purchase on the cross.

2. What do each of these phrases teach us about the Lord's Supper?
 - *Took bread... took the cup.* The Lord's Supper uses unleavened bread (bread without yeast, the kind of bread used during the Passover meal and Feast of Unleavened Bread) and grape wine, the type of wine used in the cups that were drunk during the Passover meal. We know it was wine because it had been about 5-6 months since the grape harvest and a process to preserve the fruit of the vine w/o fermenting it into wine was not discovered until 1869!
 - *Gave it to them (His disciples).* This meal is for Jesus' disciples, His followers who know who He is and believe His words, what He says about sin and our need for a Savior, and what He says about this supper and the need to be united on the basis of everything He teaches (cf. Matthew 28:19-20).
 - *This is my body... this is my blood.* Along w/ the bread and wine, Jesus gives us His true body and blood. While we cannot see it or explain it, Jesus' plain words say this is so and other Scripture verses (1 Corinthians) confirm it. Jesus' promise, the powerful Word of God makes this meal exactly what He says, His true body and blood. What a comfort, for as we receive this treasure, we are also receiving the forgiveness which He won by His death on the cross.
 - *...which is poured out.* Jesus would give His life on the cross to save us, His blood is poured out to forgive us!
3. What warning does Jesus give to His disciples that reveals their weakness? That they will fall away and desert him.
4. What comfort does He give them in verse 28? That they will see Him in Galilee. He does not give up on them or write them off because of their failures this night. He goes to save them, and risen from the dead they will see Him again and hear the good news of His forgiveness.

Day 5: Mark 14:32-52

1. Why was Jesus deeply troubled? He is facing death. Death is not natural, it came into God's creation because of sin. Jesus is the sinless one, meaning He should not die. He is also not careless with His life (which would break the 5th commandment), therefore He does not look

forward to the pain of dying, not to mention in His death He will be carrying and bearing all the sin and guilt of an entire world of sinners.

2. How was Jesus' prayer perfect? He asks that His Father's will be done and is fully prepared to accept and carry out that will.
3. Earlier, the disciples had said they would all die for Jesus. How do they fall far short of their boast in this section? They said they would die, but Peter, James and John can't even stay awake to be with him and comfort him in this time of sorrow! They all desert him and run away in the end.
4. What is the flesh and what is the spirit in verse 38? The flesh is the sinful flesh, the old sinful nature or old self that opposes everything God wants. The spirit is the new heart of faith, the new self, the creation of the Holy Spirit when He brings us to faith; it desires the things of God. Because we have a new self and an old self, and the old self is weak with sin and is fighting against our new self, we struggle! (Cf. Paul's discussion and struggle in Romans 7:7-8:1 for more on this same concept.)
5. What amazing truth does verse 42 give us about everything Jesus will suffer? He gets up and goes to meet His betrayer. Jesus knows what is happening. He will not be taken by surprise. He could easily escape into the darkness of the Mount of Olives. But He will not. All this shows He chooses willingly to go to His suffering and death, because He chooses to save us. What amazing love! What a reason to sing with the Lenten hymn: "Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus unto thee" (CW 114).

Blessing: Blessed are you, who take refuge in the Son, the Savior King. (See Psalm 2)

Final thoughts: See how much Jesus loves you! All He does in these last hours of His life, He does for you! He encourages us to watch and pray. And because He knows our sin and weakness, He does everything perfectly in our place and willingly goes to suffer and die to save us! And then, in the Lord's Supper, He gives us the very treasure that won our salvation: His body and blood to forgive us and gives us new strength as we live for Him in thanksgiving.

More Resources on Mark

Answers for this week's questions may be found on the Peace Website [A Path Strewn with Sinners: A Devotional Study of Mark's Gospel & His Race to the Cross](#) by Wade Johnston. Two copies available in church library.

[Read Scripture: Mark](#) by The Bible Project. Youtube.com