

April 30/May 1, 2005

Study Questions
The Good News About Jesus According to Mark
The Agony of the Cup
Mark 14:12-72
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. Does life ever seem chaotic and even out of control to you? How do you respond in those times?

What have you found that gives you peace in those times of life?

2. How would your ability to experience peace and hope in times of chaos be affected if the suffering of Jesus was simply a result of a plan gone bad rather than the perfect fulfillment of God's redemptive plan?

Bible Study

1. Read Mark 14:12-21. Identify all the ways in this text in which Mark seeks to communicate that Jesus was aware and in control of every detail of this night?

Why does Mark want us to know this?

2. Read Mark 14:22-31. What is the significance of the timing of these events?

How does this affirm again the sovereignty of God and the fulfillment of the mission of Jesus rather than viewing the events as a tragic end to a well intentioned life?

3. Read Mark 14:32-42. Jesus' agony in the garden was so great it almost killed Him (see verse 34). What was the source of the agony of Jesus in the garden?

See II Corinthians 5:21 and Galatians 3:13. How does Mark's inclusion of the term "Abba! Father!" in the prayer of Jesus related to the "cup" help us understand the deepest source of His suffering?

Was the physical suffering to come His deepest concern? Why or why not?

4. Read Mark 14:43-72. Identify everything in this text that would reflect the fulfillment of Jesus' predictions. (See Mark 10:33-34).

Why is this important?

Were these actions that Jesus had control over in order to fulfill his own predictions?

5. Why do you think Mark records so many struggles and failures of the disciples of Jesus in 14:12-72?

What did Mark want us to learn about both Jesus and ourselves?

Application

1. When was the last time you truly pondered the reality that your sin is so offensive to God that you truly deserved to be punished forever?

When Jesus looked in that cup in Gethsemane, He saw both your sin and your deserved wrath from God. Yet, in that moment He willingly surrendered to taking that sin and wrath upon Himself so you could experience eternal life rather than eternal death. What is an appropriate response to such an act of love on our behalf?

2. Interpret Jesus' words in Mark 12:29-31 in light of what Jesus did for us.

To respond properly to what Jesus has done for us is not just to love Him but to love others as He loved us. We often fail to love others properly when we lose sight of how ugly our sin was before God. When you look in your cup and you see how others have hurt you, how should you respond in light of what Jesus did for you?

Are others more deserving of your wrath than you were deserving of God's wrath? Have others offended you more than you offended God? How has Jesus responded to your offenses?

3. Based on this text, what reason do you have for peace and hope when your world feels out of control and chaotic?
4. Does Jesus only call those whom He knows will never let Him down?

Does He know when He calls you that your future will include struggles and failures?

Like Peter, those struggles and failures can teach us we need Jesus even more than we previously realized.