

Study of the Gospel of Mark

Chapter 14 (Part 3)

Background

We are continuing with the inspired record of the events of Maundy Thursday evening. Jesus has just finished celebrating the Passover with His disciples and now leaves the upper room in Jerusalem and makes the short walk across Jerusalem to the Garden of Gethsemane just outside the city walls.

1. Read Mark 14:26-31. Mark tells us that Jesus and His disciples concluded the Passover celebration with the singing of a hymn. This hymn would have been one of the Hallel Psalms from the Old Testament which were used throughout the Passover celebration. What can we learn about Jewish worship of Jesus day, which is similar to our own worship today? Why is this important to recognize?

Note: The Hebrew word Hallel (from which we have the word "Hallelujah") means "praise." The Hebrew Hallel Psalms were Psalms 111-118 which all were hymns of praise to Jehovah. Open your Bible to these Psalms and look for the words "Praise the LORD" in these Psalms.

2. On the way to the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus again prepares His disciples for what is about to happen. Notice that Jesus once more predicts His impending death and resurrection (v. 27-28). Jesus refers to the words of the Old Testament prophet Zechariah (13:7) as He points to His death and what will happen in Gethsemane. Why was it important for Jesus to do this?

3. How did the disciples respond to Jesus' words of warning? What does this tell us about the disciples' understanding about Jesus' death? (Cf. John 11:1-16)

4. Read Mark 14:32-42. These verses clearly reveal the agony of Jesus as He prepares to come face to face with the awesome and painful responsibility that He had willingly taken upon Himself. Here we can unmistakably see the true humanity of our Savior as He wrestled with the horrendous debt He had come to pay. As you read these verses note and

list the places where Jesus' human nature is revealed. Why is this important for us to recognize? (cf. Philippians 2:5-8; Galatians 4:4-5)

5. What is important to note about the way Jesus prayed to His Father?

6. Throughout His ministry, Jesus emphasized the importance of doing the will of His Father and praying that His will be done, not ours. Here are several examples (in addition to this one in Gethsemane) of this in the life and teaching of Jesus:

Luke 11:2-4; John 5:30; John 6:38

What can and should we learn from this example of Jesus? Why is it important that we remember to pray that "God's will be done" in our lives?

7. Read Mark 14:43-50. Judas, having made a deal with the Jewish leaders to deliver Jesus to them, leads a contingent of Jewish soldiers to the Garden of Gethsemane to capture Jesus. Judas had established a sign for revealing Jesus to the mob - a kiss. This was a typical Jewish greeting, and would not have been unusual. This was probably intended by Judas to disguise what he was actually doing. While we may criticize Judas for his act of betrayal, we, like Judas, also go to extremes in order to cover up our sin! Think of examples in your own life when you have tried to cover your sin from the eyes of others....

8. Peter (John 18:10), wanting to fulfill his promise to remain at Jesus' side no matter what would happen, drew his sword and struck one of those who had come with Judas. But this was not the way. Jesus had to accomplish the work that He had come to do, and this was the way it would be fulfilled. Throughout history the church has, like Peter, tried to solve the problems they are faced with the sword. But the physical sword has never been the weapon of God's Church. Our weapon is the Word of God which is the power of God to salvation! (2 Corinthians 10:3-6; Ephesians 6:10-18)