

Mark

Chapter 14

This is a long and involved chapter, so we will need to go through things quickly. I would suggest not reading the paragraphs as you should have read the chapter before class.

In verses 1-2 and 10-11 is the plot to kill Jesus and Judas' involvement. But in the midst of that story is the anointing of Jesus. What was Mark trying to say in these stories about preparing for Jesus' death?

In verses 12-31 we have the preparation for the Passover and the telling of the story of Jesus' offering this meal as the Lord's Supper or communion. In each gospel it's a little different. Do you have any questions about this story? I wanted to focus on the denial by Peter and the betrayal by Judas. Focusing on verse 21 do you think Mark was writing about what happened or using what happened to warn the readers not to betray or deny Jesus themselves? Have you ever betrayed or denied Jesus?

In verses 32-42 we read the story of Jesus praying in the garden. I remember a question raised many years ago when I was a student in a Bible study. If the disciples were all asleep how did they remember what Jesus actually prayed?

In verses 43-51 we have the betrayal and arrest of Jesus. The Sunday after Easter when I preached at New Market I talked about Thomas who was called "the Twin" and speculated that since we do not hear who the other twin was, it may have been that he was the spitting image of Jesus in essence his twin. Otherwise, why would Judas have to kiss Jesus, or pick him out of the lineup, unless the soldiers could not tell which twin was which. Verse 51 is an odd piece of the story. Some scholars speculate that this was Mark telling the readers that he was there, and he was the certain young man.

In verses 53-65 we read of Jesus before the council. They seem to have a hard time coming up with a reason to execute Jesus. About tearing down the temple and raising it up on the third day. Again, I remember this from an old Bible study, "if it was against the law to follow Jesus, with the authorities find any evidence to convict you?"

In verses 66-72 We have the story of Peter denying Jesus. We focus on the denial and Jesus foretelling it, but I would point out that it would not have happened if Peter had just run away with the other disciples and not stayed close to Jesus. Peter remembered what Jesus said. What do you remember Jesus saying that spoke to you? What do you remember from this Bible study?