

Summary of Mark's Gospel

Mark presents Jesus as a Servant and Savior.

MARK IS THE "GO GOSPEL"!

Mark 10 verse 45 **"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."**

Three things were necessary before Jesus began His ministry: he needed to be **baptized, filled with the Spirit** and to be **tempted**.

SATAN SCHEMES... If I can't stop the seed from being born maybe I can **corrupt it through TEMPTATION**.

The first Adam fell to the **HIDEOUS SATAN** in the **GLORIES OF EDEN**; now the second Adam faced Satan's **DECEPTIVELY BEAUTIFUL** presence in **DESOLATE DESERT**. The encounter of Christ and Satan was the greatest combat which has ever taken place on the face of the earth, **and by far the most important**. If Christ failed at any point, we would have no hope of resisting temptation or of receiving salvation.

Jesus' experience provides us with mighty wisdom in combating the temptations brought to us by Satan...

These two things, the fullness of The Holy Spirit and the fullness of the Word, will bring victory.

Mark 1 verse 17... Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸ They immediately left their nets and followed Him. **WHEN YOU MEET JESUS YOU ARE NEVER THE SAME.**

Their hearts were enlarged to take in the whole world. Following Christ **eliminates the trivial** and expands our hearts. Their world was no longer confined to the menial microcosm of Galilee. Their **ME** centered world will now become about **OTHERS**. What they gave up were **boats, nets, and FISH**. What they gained was **Jesus**

Jesus was the best teacher and preacher of all time...

Jesus begins His ministry by teaching in a synagogue... Jesus tortures a demon **WITH TRUTH**, **JESUS REBUKED THE DEMON** told it to be muzzled! **The Demon did not want to leave, but he must leave -- that is the point. He is overwhelmed by a superior power.**

28 And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee.

Jesus heals Peter's mother in law... Verse 33 of chapter 1... And the **whole city** was gathered together at the door. Boy I'll say news spread... Jesus healed many and cast out many Demons...

A leper came dressed for a funeral... His own! **Crazy faith!** Desperate faith

verse 41... Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out *His* hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." **HE SEES THE SORES. HE SEES THE SHAME. The sight fills Jesus with COMPASSION.** He reaches out to **touch** the man. The gesture says so much to **somebody nobody** speaks to anymore, **let alone** touches.

It says, **"I LOVE YOU. I care. I'm sorry. I UNDERSTAND. I want to help."**

IN A WORLD THAT CALLS ALL OF MANKIND EITHER "good guys" or "bad guys" scripture says we are **all** bad guys. The world says you are pretty or you are ugly... **Without Jesus we are all ugly...**

You see it doesn't matter if you are a **Raider fan** or a **charger fan**, a **Mac user** or prefer **P.C...** **Democrat** or **republican**, **any way you slice it we are all BAD GUYS in need of salvation.**

God saves us by grace not because we are good **but because God is good.**

What an absolute perfect parallel to all of mankind's spiritual condition. An outward and visible sign of our innermost spiritual corruption. The leper is a **physical illustration** of the **HEART** of every human being. If for a moment we could see a visible incarnation of ourselves apart from the cleansing work of Christ, we would see ourselves as the walking dead.

Chapters 2&3

Jesus walked along the seashore and saw a man despised by others - a hated tax-collector. He challenged Levi, "Follow Me." He left all and followed. Tax-collectors hang out with pretty shady people. That night, Levi (or Matthew) throws a party and invites his shady friends to meet the *Light of the world*. As it turns out, any friend of Levi's is a friend of Jesus!

Dearest Church never forget: to be like Jesus is to be a friend of sinners. Our Lord Jesus is interested, not in the so-called "well and righteous", but in the "sick and sinners".

The case against Jesus was mounting! In Capernaum when He forgave the paralytic's sins, the scribes and Pharisees accused Him of blasphemy, **A SIN PUNISHABLE BY DEATH**. Next, Jesus added to His disciples the despised by all tax gatherer Levi. Immediately following a party at Levi's house with **"PEOPLE OF THE LAND"** the scum of the earth, the Pharisees were scandalized.

If that was not enough, Jesus' disciples were not obeying the religious rulers rules regarding fasting. *The final straw dropped* as Jesus had the audacity to heal a man on the Sabbath.

Jesus was a marked man, but no one would take His life... He would freely give it! It would only be given at the **"APPOINTED TIME"**.

Now, maddened with hatred, the *separatist* Pharisees formed an unholy alliance with the *worldly* Herodians as together they plotted the disposal of Jesus.

The human side of our savior was exhausted.

...Collision after collision with the religious leaders

...Crowds everywhere have literally crushed in on Him...

First, Jesus gets away to be alone... **SECOND**, He prays and **Third** He shares the ministry with 12 disciples ***Though he came to save man, at times he needed to be away from man.***

First opinion... He's crazy!

Second opinion... He works for Satan!

Truth... He is God! THE SUPREMELY SANE LIFE IS ONE THAT IS TOTALLY COMMITTED TO HIM. This world is upside down... **IT IS INSANE.** When Jesus stepped into history, **sanity** stepped into history; when Jesus stepped into my life, **sanity** stepped into my life. When I follow Jesus, I do the sanest thing. The greater our commitment, the greater our **sanity**. Follow Jesus and you will be *supremely sane!!!*

FIRST HEART (Hard heart)

The first soil described here speaks of people who are hard-hearted. They hear the Word, and it doesn't penetrate at all. "That's for the birds," they say. And the birds come and pluck it away.

SECOND HEART (shallow heart)

Affliction, like the sun, brings growth to roots in good soil, but withers the shallow profession of faith.

(Spurgeon) the religion that is born of mere excitement will die when the excitement is over." Trials and tribulations often reveal the "shallow heart".

THIRD HEART (thorny or divided heart)

The thorns, Jesus explained, represented "the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desire for other things." **MATERIALISM** shuts out the light of Christ. **Do you have things or do things have you?**

FOURTH HEART (Fruitful heart) is it you? This parable shows that when the word is received as it should be, *something happens* - fruit is produced. If nothing happens, then the word is not being received as it should.

May all of us cultivate the soil of our hearts by staying in God's word, by staying in fellowship and remaining humble and broken before Jesus.

PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED...

The great contrast between the seed and the shrub. The Oriental mind sees two situations, **on the one hand the dead seed** and **on the other hand the waving cornfield**, here death, there through divine power, life." So often we live in the discouragement of the here and now, I'm not getting anywhere, I'm going backwards, am I ever going to amount to anything?

LIFT UP YOUR EYES & SEE When God is in charge; implicit is small beginnings are great ends... for we are in great hands!

AFTER TEACHING COMES TESTING. ALWAYS.

Hughes... They had no way at that terrible moment of knowing it, but that miserable storm was a vehicle for teaching them about God and his power in their lives. **The storm was essential** to their spiritual development. Here we see a principle of universal and spiritual application. Without difficult,mes, trials, stresses, and even failures, we would never grow to be what we should become. **Storms are part of the process of spiritual growth.**

I'm so glad God finishes what He starts... **If Jesus is in your boat, it can't sink. If He's in your life, you won't go down.**

Sweet Jesus many of your kids are going through some tempestuous times right now. I pray that you would be with them. Help them to see you in the midst of their storms – you who rule the wind and the waves with only a word.

And help them to see that no matter how devastating the storm that sweeps over them, you do care if they drown. Help them not to be hasty in judging your concern for them during those times when their lives seem to be sinking and you seem to be asleep in the stern.

Help them to see that you allow storms in their lives to strengthen them – **not to shipwreck them.**

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for being there during their individual storms. And when uncertain seas unsettle their faith, turn their attention to you so that the tempest in their souls might be quieted and made still.....

The keeping power of Christ over his people is a truth which we all need to understand and believe, for it is life-changing.

The throaty voice rasps its reply, "My name is Legion, for we are many." **What a chilling declaration!** A Roman legion consisted

of **6,000** foot soldiers, as well as **120** horsemen and technical personnel. **Legion** says, "There are a lot of us, we are organized, we are unified, we are mighty, And we are ready to fight!"

you may be legion but I am **Legion killer...** I am LORD! **To Jesus their power was that of an organized army of snails.**

Another soul set free from the ternary of Satan..

JESUS HEALS JAIRUS' DAUGHTER AND A WOMEN WITH AN ISSUE OF BLOOD

Two people—at opposite ends of the social and economic spectrum—waited for Jesus. Jesus loved and set both free!

Chapter 6 verse 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief.

Scriptures record Jesus marveling on only two occasions. One is here—when He marveled at the unbelief of the Jews. The other is in Luke 7 and Matthew 9, when He marveled at the belief of a Gentile.

Which marveling does Jesus do about you?

Jesus is rejected by those in His home town ... FAMILIARITY BREEDS CONTEMPT.

John was a man who kept his conscience and lost his head. **Herod was a man who took John's head and lost his own conscience.**

It was the story of the life and death of a conscience – and the death of a soul.

COURSON... Herod was "exceeding sorry" to have to kill John the Baptist. Yet kill him he did because he was put on the spot at a party where wine and oaths flowed freely. Stay away from such places, dear people. You'll regret it if you don't because there's always a price to pay. Demands will be made. Peer pressure will mount. Things will happen you'll wish hadn't. Ask Herod.

Historians tell us Herod was haunted all the days of his life by what he had done to John the Baptist.

WHAT A TRAGEDY! Herod's conscience had begun to live, and he stifled it because of what he feared others would think.

Message to the unbeliever: It is possible for a human being to be so jaded that he or she can stand face-to-face with Christ and feel nothing. It is possible to so squash the repeated warnings of conscience that it becomes as if dead.

"The **HEART** of the human problem is the **HEART** of the human. Our only hope is a full transplant. ***Good thing Jesus is our blood type.***"

Message to the believer: A neglected conscience will suffer progressive desensitization to God so that we do not hear Him when He speaks. We need to cultivate our conscience by filling our minds with God's Word and **then obeying**

Jesus wanted His disciples to see that no matter what they have, even the tiniest or most menial thing, if they really gave it to Him, He could use it. *Little is much when God is in it.* We learn from the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 how Jesus truly feels for us with **COMPASSIONATE MERCY**; that He **omnipotently provides** for us through His creative power; that He fully satisfies us with his bread; and finally that He calls us to give what we have to him, that he might share the Bread of Life with the multitudes who are like sheep without a shepherd.

After all . . . WE are all merely beggars telling other beggars where to find bread

The disciples experienced **2** physical storms in their 3 ½ year residency with the Savior. In the first storm Jesus was **present, only asleep**. But in the next one, he **withdrew** to a distant hill. And although he could see them, a blindfold of night prevented them from seeing him.

Why the withdrawal? To wean the disciples from sight to faith. To force them to rely less on their **physical eyes** and more on their **spiritual ones**.

If they were ever to walk by faith, Jesus had to withdraw from their sight.

Their roots must deepen THEIR TRUNKS MUST GROW STOUT.

Their branches must grow firm.

It was a hard chapter in the textbook of faith. Within hours, their clothes would dry, their shivering would stop. Within days, they would forget their sore backs, forget their raw hands. **BUT THE LESSONS THE DISCIPLES LEARNED THAT NIGHT THEY WOULD NEVER FORGET.**

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
 Let me walk upon the waters
 Wherever You would call me
 Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
 And my faith will be made stronger
 In the presence of my Savior

The masses were being **healed and helped**, delivered and fed... the scribes and Pharisees found fault with Jesus' disciples because they didn't wash their hands ceremonially as prescribed by **65** pages of the **Mishnah**, the written version of the traditional oral Jewish Law.

Many had elevated the oral law above that of the written law. They had come to a place where they honored **man's word above God's**.

What a person says **NEVER** has the same authority as God's Word. Even if they **sincerely** say it is from God, it never has the same authority as God's Word. **Even if everyone accepts it, it never has the same authority as God's Word. Even if it makes perfect sense, it never has the same authority as God's Word.**

This is one of the pillars of legalism. Taking a commandment or opinion of men, and teaching or promoting it as a doctrine from God. It gives man's word the same weight as God's word.

Conformity in the essentials, liberty in the non-essentials and love in all things!

Jesus comes with good news... my death will overthrow the government of sin that reigns in the hearts of all men. Jesus sets all that is wrong right and we learn that not only is all food now clean but that all people are equal in God's eyes. **His love is for the world... not just for the world of Jews.**

IRONSIDE BEAUTIFULLY NOTES "Nothing appealed to our blessed Lord more than **faith coupled with humility.**" Some people come to God with a kind of *faith*, but without humility. Others come to God with a kind of *humility*, but without faith. But if the two are combined it is a powerful thing before God.

TWICE THE SCRIPTURES BLOT THE TEARS OF OUR "Beautiful Savior".

He wept over Jerusalem, a nation that would soon die... here He weeps over a friend who has already died. **Jesus called them both out of their tombs. Lazarus came forth. JERUSALEM DID NOT**

Our theology must take legs and begin to walk or as James would say our religion is worthless.

None of us, as believers, are meant to go through life with dry eyes.

This is what we need if we are to reach our pagan, secular world for Christ: **Treat them and love them as individuals**, stay in constant prayer, live a bold pronouncement of the Good News. We need to come to them, **"with a deep sigh."**

The best way to spend your life is doing things that will outlast it... life will soon pass and only what's done for Christ will last!

Before Jesus turned His face towards Jerusalem... before He went to the cross His disciples needed to fully grasp His identity. The pointed question is asked, **"WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?"** Peter's response... **"You are the Christ"**.

PETER YOU ROCK! so powerful is that truth that I'm going to build my church upon that fact... **Yes, I am the promised Messiah...** the anointed one... I am God. Now you are ready to know that I am going to lay my life down... no man will take it. I'm gonna give it. This fact needs to be settled in your heart because to follow me you will have to take up your cross and follow me to death.

THE ROAD TO CHRIST LIKE CHARACTER IS PAVED WITH **gold bricks** of *suffering* and *persecution*. If that's the road Christ like character takes us down, why walk down it in the first place?

AS KEN GIRE SO BEAUTIFULLY PROCLAIMS, "Because the road of suffering is not the end of the road. At the end – beyond sight of our eyes, a few steps ahead of our logic, past our wildest dreams – **lies a majestic kingdom, brimming with blessings: Comfort from the sadness we've carried in our hearts.**

An inheritance that staggers the imagination.

A feast to satisfy every inner longing we've ever had.

Mercy to salve every wound we've encountered along the way.

And, most exciting of all, the embrace of the Father welcoming his children home. These are the blessings of full surrender to God's right to rule in your life. Blessings that should not only give us hope for the road ahead... but happiness here and now so we can **enjoy the journey."**

The Transfiguration; a taste of the glory waiting after the suffering!

It was, quite literally, **the light at the end of the tunnel** – a glimpse of the glory on the other side. **The way to that glory is not a road around suffering but through it.** And joy is found in the destination, not in the detour.

But to share Christ's glory means we must first share his suffering. The cross comes from the crown; humiliation before exaltation.

What will last forever?

1. THE WORD OF GOD
2. THE SOULS OF MEN

"A life once spent is irrevocable. It will remain to be contemplated through eternity....The same may be said of each day. When it is once past, it is gone forever. All the marks which we put upon it, it will exhibit forever....Each day will not only be a witness of our conduct, but will affect our everlasting destiny....How shall we then wish to see each day marked with usefulness? It is too late to mend the days that

are past. **Let us, then, each morning, resolve to send the day into eternity in such a garb as we shall wish it to wear forever."**

Jesus loves Children 19 out of 20 people who surrender to Jesus did so before the age of 25

Mark 10 verse 15... Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

Jesus says we **must** become as children to enter the kingdom. **Strong words...** This doesn't mean we are to be **childish**. It means we must be **CHILDLIKE**.

The first and most obvious quality about children is that they are simple, but not in any negative way. The scars of life have not complicated their thinking processes.

Simple **TRUST**.

Maybe the sense of wonder and of mystery that resides in a child.

I think this one is most important... Every child, no matter race, culture or background has **"HELPLESS DEPENDENCE"**
Humility

TOPLADY "Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling; "

HIS GRACE + OUR NOTHINGNESS...

When we know we are helpless... **WE ARE HUMBLE**
HUMILITY IS the ear mark of kingdom citizens

May we always come the way Jesus said we have to... with **HELPLESS DEPENDENCE... BROKEN... HUMBLE... FULL OF GRATITUDE.**

Jesus elevated children... so should we!

As Mark is taking us through this "GO" gospel... he continues to move us towards Jerusalem, **towards the cross, towards His grand resurrection and our**

redemption. Jesus' Servanthood/Savior theme is crystalizing before our eyes.

SERVANT AND SAVIOR Mark 10 verse 45 **"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."**

Before his Triumphal Entry, however, **Jesus had to pass through Jericho**, It is here Jesus will preform His last healing miracle recorded by Mark before entering Jerusalem.

Truly, without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6)—for it is faith that **sees the invisible**, **believes the impossible**, and **receives the incredible**.

In the twinkling of an eye, Bartimaeus passes out of darkness and into the light. Imagine how it was for Bartimaeus. Blind at the beginning of Christ's sentence, **he was seeing at the end of it!** No surgery! No bandages! No adjustment! **Bam!** – sight!

The beauty of God's creation... the armada of clouds in full sail... Most importantly the King of the universe standing in front of Him. Never to be the same!!! **When you meet Jesus face to face your never the same!**

It's called "PASSION WEEK". That's the understatement of the millennium!

The betrayal of the crowds... *weeping over the nation of Israel...* Drinking the cup of divine wrath against sin... The physical agony of **sweating blood**, *sleepless nights*, **being spit upon**, **punched**, **flogged**, *crowned with thrones and crucified!*

The greatest passion and pain of all Enduring the loneliness of the Father turning away as Jesus took upon Himself the sins of the world.

Strong words to describe strong passion and pain... **exceedingly sorrowful**, **AGONY**, **sobbing**.

The fig tree looked good on the outside but had no fruit.

ISRAEL WAS A BARREN FIG TREE, **and the leaves only covered its nakedness.** GOD ISN'T PLEASED WHEN HIS PEOPLE ARE all leaves and no fruit.

He entered the **city** with the meekness of a lamb. He enters the **temple** with the **ferociousness of a lion.** Teeth bore. Claws extended. Roaring His rebuke. **You have made the house of prayer a 'den of robbers.'**

The high priest's family had perverted Temple worship into a means of **extortion!** Everyone knew this... what could they do?

We are the Temple now . . . our worship needs to be **AUTHENTIC** and from the heart. **MAY YOUR WORSHIP BE PASSIONATE!**

Archbishop William Temple's definition of worship: *"to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God."*

Forgive! To grant free pardon, or remission of debt. "Let go of the anger, disappointment and hurt"

Peter **7 times!** Jesus responds with **70 x's 7.** **Jesus was telling us that our heart for forgiving should exceed someone's ability to sin against us.**

FORGIVENESS DEMONSTRATES WEATHER WE HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN.

Because Jesus clearly links faith to forgiveness, if we're not forgiving, the power of faith is short-circuited.

God had sent prophets to Israel to point out the **holes** in their **SPIRITUAL WALLS** and the places where **weeds** had overgrown their hearts. But the prophets were rejected.

Elijah was relentlessly pursued by Ahab and Jezebel. (1 Kings 19:1-5)

Zechariah was stoned to death in the temple under the reign of Joash.
(2 Chronicles 24:21)

Jeremiah was imprisoned and later stoned.

Isaiah was mocked and later sawn in two by order of Manasseh.

Amos was beaten to death with a club.

John the Baptist was beheaded.

The parable teaches two things about **God's patience.**

1. It is long-suffering. 2. It has its limits

May we all fall on Jesus and be broken... don't wait for Jesus to fall on you and be **pulverized.**

**“RENDER TO CAESAR THE THINGS THAT ARE CAESAR'S”
AND TO GOD THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD'S”**

As one man noted, “Because Jesus named God in the second half of the statement, the demands of the ultimate, eternal KING overruled the petty reign of Caesar.”

Jesus put Caesar in his place, and again there was nothing his critics could do about it!

Give Caesar his coin... after all the coin bears his image... but We are God's coin. We bear his image. So give Him ALL!

The Jews had **6 1 3** commandments from the Old Testament law. And they all can be reduced to one **LOVE.**

LOVE GOD AND LOVE EACH OTHER!

Jesus illustrates with the parable of the good Samaritan... In demonstrating what it meant to be a good neighbor, the Samaritan defined the meaning of love.

Love doesn't look away. *AND IT DOESN'T WALK AWAY.*

It involves itself. It inconveniences itself. It indebts itself.

As G. Campbell Morgan once said, "Motive is everything in the Kingdom."
WHEN ACTS OF WORSHIP ARE STAGED TO IMPRESS MAN THEY CEASE TO IMPRESS GOD.

Mark 12 verse 42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites,

She was living out the *Shema*, **loving God with all she had.** On this Passover she was silently saying to God, "I love you, and all I have is yours. Here's my heart, my life."

Men who do works so they will be seen by men receive the applause of men. Those who do works for God's glory receive God's smile. The reward for the latter is overwhelming – and always will be.

Jesus was so blessed by this poor widow's gift. He gave her a place of honor not only in His eyes but in the eyes of the disciples. And not only in theirs but in every eye of every century that has ever read God's Word and seen this act of worship.

Wars... Earthquakes... Famines... Pestilences...

These are the beginning of sorrows, or "labor pains."

But what Jesus is saying is that, like birth pains, these things will increase in frequency and intensity as the Tribulation period draws nearer.

Prophecy is not to entertain the curious... **nor given to scare us.**

Prophecy should awaken us... **and it should comfort us!**

As Jesus declares in verse 33 Take heed, **watch and pray**; for you do not know when the time is. **"I don't know when Jesus is coming so I have to be alert, eager, and ready for His coming."**

- This should have a purifying effect in our lives
- **It gives us a sense of urgency**
- **It makes us bold in speaking to the lost**
- **It helps us keep a light touch on the things of this world**

WE all should wake up every morning and say, **"Jesus could come back today and I need to be ready."**

Mary comes with perfume. **Expensive perfume.** As she anoints him, the aroma of **extravagant love** fills the room. **So pure. So lovely.** Flowing from the veined alabaster jar of her heart, a heart broken against the hard reality of her Savior's imminent death.

John tells us that after pouring ointment upon Jesus' head, Mary wiped His feet with her hair (12:3). As a result, her hair took on the same fragrance as His feet. She smelled just like Jesus.

THAT'S WHAT WORSHIP DOES. Tired of smelling like the world... **does your attitude STINK?**

BECOME A WORSHIPPER! *Pour yourself out in private worship...* corporate worship... morning devotions... **Worship is the most intimate expression of those who long to smell like Jesus.**

Jesus loved Judas right to the end - **rejected love, to be sure - if we miss that love, we miss the whole story.**

Tragic, the clock had struck midnight in Judas' soul!

Did Jesus fall to the fate and will of man? **Not a chance!** Mark 14 verse 21 The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him.

No one took His life... **He gave it!** According to the will and plan of God. From the moment Adam fell in the garden, God had a plan of redemption.

****He is a MASTER who brings his MASTERY to our dark time when we see only doom around us *OOPS is not in God's vocabulary!***



In the greatest display of obedience that will ever be known, Jesus took the full chalice of **man's sin** and **God's wrath**, looked, **trembling**, deep into it's depth, and in a steel act of His will drank it all... so you and I would not have to.

Peter, who fell asleep three times, went on to deny his Lord by that same number – hardly a poetic coincidence! Courage brought Peter to the courtyard... but now his courage is gone.

So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

Peter is violently confronted with his failure... he wept bitterly. **First step in restoration... repentance.**

Be a DYNAMIC CHRISTIAN and learn from your mistakes... not a STATIC one who continually repeats them.

Stop warming yourselves by the fire of the enemies of God. Come back to Jesus and be restored and forgiven.

THE APPLICATION IS SIMPLY THIS: all of us should give ourselves to regular, daily prayer. If you are not living a life of dependent prayer, you will fall.

Assassination may well be a more accurate description of what they did to Him.

Jesus didn't come to die for anything that He had done, He came to die for what we, all humanity, have done.

Satan's one goal STOP THE SEED

The sovereignty of God in His preservation of the Messianic line is astounding

~ Thomas Paine *“What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: 'tis dearness only that gives everything its value.”*

May we never discuss or remember Christ's agony in a disinterested way.

His physical sufferings have always been, and will remain, a window through which we see his heart - the heart of God.

Jesus drained the cup of God's wrath bone dry, leaving not a drop for us to drink

HOURS OF LIMITLESS PAIN, cycles of twisting, joint-rending cramps, intermittent partial asphyxiation, searing pain where tissue is torn from His lacerated back as He moves up and down against the rough timber.

The Cross reveals the love of God as nothing else in the universe could!

JESUS DIES SO WE DON'T HAVE TOO

IT IS FINISHED "te-tel-es-sty/ IT IS FINISHED "Paid in Full"

Dearest Saints... now is the time... the hour is upon us to boldly proclaim life found in Jesus

SO MANY GIVE SO LITTLE TO HIM WHO GAVE SO MUCH!

*WE will never be able to comprehend His love... **Love that came so costly to Him and yet so freely to us.***

Secret disciple... mutually exclusive terms!

He is Risen!!!

Because He lives I can face tomorrow, because He lives all fear is gone. Because He lives I know He holds the future, life is worth the living just because He lives.

He was, at the very least, the most remarkable person to walk this earth. **He came with words too incredible to believe, and with wonders too incredible not to.** His footsteps shook the world, leaving a crevasse across the centuries, separating the ones that stretched ahead of Him from those that lay behind him. The prints left by those steps were made not by the hobnailed boots of a soldier or by the tailored footwear of a senator. **They were made by sandals,** the sandals as unaccustomed to floors of marble as they were to fields of battle. **Who was the man that wore them?** This man who wielded no sword, commanded no army. This man whose steps were so foreign to the corridors of power.

About him we know so very little. We know next to nothing about His childhood. And comparatively little about his adulthood. For John tells us that if everything had been written down that he did, the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written. Yet he himself wrote nothing, published nothing. His sermons were short. His prayers, mostly private. His ministry, a scant three-and-a-half years. Who was this man who changed the world, walking wherever he went in such ordinary sandals?

His name was Jesus. **May we all fall at His feet to love Him whose sandals the very greatest have always felt least worthy to untie.**