

# JOURNEY together



**Current Series:**

**“The Gospel According to Mark”**

**Disciples  
growing together  
in small groups**

# The Gospel According to Mark

1 Mark 1-2

2 Mark 3-4

3 Mark 5-6

4 Mark 7-8

5 Mark 9-10

6 Mark 11-12

**7 Mark 13-14**

8 Mark 15-16

# Step 1: GET REAL

**What** are you thankful for from the past week?

**What** struggles did you face this past week?

**What** can you share from your personal Bible reading?

**What** are your thoughts from Mark 13-14?

# Step 2: GET FED, page 1

## Text: Mark 13-14

### 13:1-8

- Mark 13 is one of the most complex chapters in the gospel accounts. Here Jesus gives instructions about:
  - #1. Being prepared for the coming destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans, fulfilled in AD 70.
  - #2. Being prepared for final Judgment Day.

Deciding WHICH of these two events (or perhaps both?) is being alluded to throughout the chapter is challenging, as Jesus seems to interweave the two topics. This much is certain, however, **we need to be ready**. As you read through the chapter, notice how often the call is “to watch,” “to be on guard,” “to be alert,” etc.

- Jesus says that many deceivers would be coming, saying “I am he” (the Messiah). What is our defense against being led away by false teaching? 1 John 4:1; Acts 17:11
- Wars, famines, earthquakes, (and sickness) are bound to occur throughout mankind’s days upon the earth. Why do you think Jesus says to not be alarmed by such things? Psalm 46:1-3

### 13:9-13

- The early Christians would undergo great persecution, from both Jews and Gentiles. Yet in the midst of it all, the gospel would be proclaimed throughout the world (that is, throughout the then known world; see Col. 1:6, 23). Do you think that persecution for our faith hinders the spread of the gospel?
- Contextually, the promise of directly receiving Holy Spirit inspired messages is given to whom? See also Matt. 10:5, 19.

# Step 2: GET FED, page 2

## Text: Mark 13-14

### 13:9-13 (continued)

- Family members would persecute their own children, parents, and siblings. How is a Christian to hold on to their faith, when their own family hates them because of it? Luke 14:26; Matt. 10:34-37
- Despite any and all opposition and persecution, Christians are called (v. 13) to stand firm / to endure / to be faithful even to the point of death (Rev. 2:10). Will salvation in the end be worth it?

### 13:14-23

- The “abomination of desolation” refers back to the desecration of the Temple by Antiochus IV Epiphanes in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (prophesied in Dan. 9:27). Here Jesus reconfigures that OT allusion into a warning for the people to quickly get out of Jerusalem. The situation is plainly described in **Luke 21:20-21, 24**. When the people saw the city being surrounded by Roman armies (AD 70), it was a signal to get out of town FAST. There would not be time to go back and get things from the house, etc. When the day of their physical destruction arrived, if they were not ready go, then it would be TOO late. What application do you see for us today?
- Yet again, Jesus warns against being scammed by false messiahs and false prophets. During times of distress, including the current pandemic, scammers abound. In anticipation of what was coming, what does Jesus tell the people to do (v. 23)?

# Step 2: GET FED, page 3

## Text: Mark 13-14

### 13:24-27

● With grand apocalyptic language directly alluding to God's judgment on Babylon (Is. 13:1, 10; see also Is. 34:1-4; Ezek. 32:2, 7-8), Jesus speaks of the sun growing dark, etc. That is, Jesus is coming in judgment. Do you think that he's here referring to the coming destruction of Jerusalem or to final Judgment Day or to both?

### 13:28-31

● Just as the disciples could tell from the leafing out of the fig tree that summer had arrived, they could tell from watching the signs what was about to happen. Jesus goes on to say that these things would all happen before that generation all passed away. Do you think that he's here referring to the coming destruction of Jerusalem or to final Judgment Day or to both?

● What does Jesus say will pass away? What will never pass away?

### 13:32-37

● Only God the Father himself knows when "that day or hour" will come. Do you think that Jesus is referring here to the coming destruction of Jerusalem or to final Judgment Day or to both?

● As we don't know when that day or hour will come, Jesus tell us to do what in v. 33? In v. 35? In v. 37?

● If the day arrives and we're still not prepared, what will happen? Whose fault will it be?

# Step 2: GET FED, page 4

## Text: Mark 13-14

### 14:1-11

- Again, we see the Jewish leaders scheming to have Jesus killed. What do you think led their hearts to becoming so closed to the truth? Consider again Mark 7:6-8.
- Mark simply tells us that “a woman” anointed Jesus’ head; John’s gospel identifies her as \_\_\_\_? John 12:3. Why do you think she did this? Was it really a good use of the money (~\$25,000)?
- Is it surprising to you that the disciples (Matt. 26:8) scolded / rebuked the woman about what she had done? Why or why not?
- How do you suppose the woman felt after the disciples’ rebuke? How do you think she felt after Jesus spoke up in her defense?
- What applications can you suggest from Jesus’ comment, “She did what she could” (v. 8)?
- Who do you think gave more: Mary who anointed Jesus OR the widow who gave her 2 small coins (Mark 12:42-44)?
- What was Judas’ real reason for objecting to the woman anointing Jesus here? See John 12:4-6. Do you think that this incident played into Judas’ decision to betray Jesus (v. 10)?

# Step 2: GET FED, page 5

## Text: Mark 13-14

### 14:12-26

- Referring to Judas, Jesus said, “It would be better for him if he had not been born” (v. 21). What do you think this means? See also Acts 1:25.
- Jesus reshaped the Jewish Passover feast into the Lord’s Supper (1 Cor. 11:20). Indeed, Jesus was about to be sacrificed as our Passover lamb (1 Cor. 5:7) to redeem us from our sins (1 Peter 1:18-19). What does the bread of the Lord’s Supper represent? Why is that important to you? What does the fruit of the vine represent? Why is that important to you?

### 14:27-31

- Jesus said that all of the disciples (apostles, here) would fall away, as had been prophesied (Zech. 13:7). They, however, strongly disagreed. Have you ever told God that you were *fully committed* to him, only to soon find yourself not so committed, after all?
- Do you think the disciples meant what they said about never disowning Jesus, even if it meant having to die?



# Step 2: GET FED, page 6

## Text: Mark 13-14

### 14:32-42

- What did Jesus mean when he said, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death”? See also Luke 22:44.
- What level of relationship was Jesus expressing when he prayed, “*Abba*, Father”?
- What “cup” was Jesus asking to be taken from him? Was Jesus dreading death, or was it something more? See Is. 51:17; 53:6; Jer. 25:15.
- Three times Jesus prayed; three times Peter, James, and John fell asleep. Do you personally relate more to the praying or to the sleeping?
- Instead of snoozing, what should Peter have been praying about (v. 38)? Contextually, temptation to do what?

### 14:43-52

- How do you think Judas could be so brazenly hypocritical as to kiss Jesus and to call him Rabbi? What applications come to mind?
- Just a few hours before, the disciples (apostles) all pledged to follow Jesus even to death. But now they all deserted him and ran (v. 50). Do you think that earlier they were just spouting empty words of devotion? Why or why not?

# Step 2: GET FED, page 7

## Text: Mark 13-14

### 14:43-52 continued

- This obscure reference to a stalker has surprised many Bible readers. Just as the apostles had all fled, this young man was so terrified that he would rather run away naked than to be arrested along with Jesus (vss. 46, 51). In what way does the story give the text a sense of authenticity?

### 14:53-65

- Charged under oath by the high priest (Matt. 26: 63), Jesus unequivocally declared that indeed he was the Messiah. Moreover, he said that he would be sitting at God's right hand coming on the clouds of heaven (v. 62), implying what in terms of judicial role reversal? 2 Cor. 5:10

- Members of the Sanhedrin and guards spit on Jesus, hit him with their fists, and beat him. Do you think that their actions were better or worse than ours when we purposely commit sin?

### 14:66-72

- Peter (John 18:10) was so zealous to defend Jesus that he sliced off the ear of the servant of the high priest (v. 47). And yet just a few hours later, he three times denied that he even knew who Jesus was. What explanations can you suggest for this turnabout in Peter's faith?

- When the rooster crowed, Peter remembered what Jesus had said and he broke down and wept. Why do you think he was crying? Have there been times in your life that you have felt like Peter here? 2 Cor. 7:10

# Step 3: GET ACTIVE

- *Call, text, or write 3 people this week and spiritually encourage them.*
- *Read Mark 15-16, discuss it with your family, and be ready to share your thoughts next time:*