

*Mark: Come Follow Me*  
Mark 14.12-31  
November 6, 2022

As we get closer to wrapping up Mark, let's keep alert since Mark is now getting to his real point in writing. There's a lot in these last chapters, so use this guide as an aide to help you get into the text. Take on the questions *as you are able and have time*. You do not need to answer each one. Please enjoy some time in the Scriptures.

Pastor Eric

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*Share with your Group:* Do you remember the first time you witnessed communion (or Mass) as a child or an adult? What do you remember? What did you think was going on?

Our whole text revolves around the so-called *Last Supper*, so read straight through **Mark 14.12-31** to catch it all in one flow. Try and fill in the background story that we're not told about in the verses 12-16. How has this arrangement been made? Which two disciples does Jesus send? Why does he arrange for Passover in this way? Is Jesus being stealthy knowing that the religious leaders want to pounce on him?

Try and remember some of the elements of the Passover Seder, mostly noting that almost all of this narrative takes place during the Passover meal. Why do you think Jesus uses this setting to make his pronouncement that one of them will betray him? Why does he do it in public? Is Jesus giving Judas a chance to confess and repent? Imagine how Judas feels. What's going through his mind? Why do each one of his disciples ask Jesus if he's the one who will betray him?

Notice the threefold movement of Jesus with the bread in verse 22. That was the act of the head of the Passover whenever it was held. But Jesus suddenly puts a new twist on the meaning of the bread. What does he say in verse 22? That was a spin that no one ever put on the bread part of the meal. Take some time to think about the significance of "This is my body." These words are deep. You may want to look at Exodus 16 and then reflect on the two feeding miracles (Mark 6 and Mark 8). And don't forget the incident in the boat in Mark 8.14-21. What is the significance of Jesus himself being the bread?

Next, in verse 24, Jesus does something strange with what would have been the third cup of wine served during the Passover Seder. Analyze Jesus' words, what is he saying, and what in the world does he mean? Read Hebrews 9.22. While the Jewish people detested blood because God specifically told them never to ingest it (Genesis 9.4), Jesus tells them to ingest his blood. Sounds gross, so why did Jesus change the meaning of the cup into his own blood? Consider the vast Old Covenant sacrificial system, especially as described in Leviticus. Is Jesus really saying that he's the *final* sacrifice? Where else in the New Testament can you find a direct answer to that?

“Jesus came into the city fully aware that he was to accomplish the Passover in his own person.”

William Lane, *New International Commentary on the New Testament*

What was the Passover celebration about? What did it commemorate? How can it be said that Jesus came to fulfill the Passover in his own person? How is this event the establishment of the New Covenant?

Throughout our passage, Jesus punctuates the events with three predictions concerning how his disciples will handle what’s about to happen. What are those three predictions and whom do they concern? How does Peter (“the Rock”) respond to Jesus? What makes him so confident?

In this passage, Jesus knows everything that’s going to happen. He knows the details of the room and how each of his disciples will behave over the course of the next 24 hours. As one man suggests, Jesus’ foreknowledge is all over this passage. And yet, Jesus serves his disciples anyway, knowing full well what they’re about to do. He even serves Judas the meal that he interprets as being about his gracious forgiveness.

Read Romans 5.6-10 and note how often Paul underscores the fact that Jesus’ death precedes our coming to him and receiving it. How does this impact your appreciation of his forgiveness? How might it affect the way you receive communion?

“Jesus sought me when a stranger  
Wandering from the fold of God  
He to rescue me from danger  
Interposed his precious blood”

Robert Robinson, *Come Thou Font of Every Blessing*

Overall, what did you learn about Jesus? Besides praising his glorious name, how should you respond to what you learned about Jesus?