

Puzzling, Paradoxical and Ironic

Mark 14:43-65

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You have the ability to stand firm, be strong, to not be overcome by and live in fear, but to live on purpose with power instead. Our Lord wants to encourage you with that truth today as things are uncertain, fragile and changing around us.

This passage is about the hinge that has changed everything, and the trajectory of world history.

Scene 1 - Galilee [1:1-8:26]: The announcement of the Good News of the Arrival of the Kingdom of God

Scene 2 - On the Way to Jerusalem [8:27 --10:52]: This scene is the hinge of the Gospel of Mark and the History of the world. Jesus began to plainly teach His disciples that He must suffer at the hands of all of Israel's leaders and be killed, and in three days rise again.

On the heels of this declaration about what is going to happen to Him, Jesus gives this plain instruction about how what happens to Him, relates to His disciples, Mark 8: 34-38. This is linked to what Jesus says in Mark 13:24-27.

Scene #3 - Jerusalem [11:1-16:7]: The place in all the prophets, where the LORD would return, rescue Israel from the enemy nations and rule all the world. Jesus is about to rescue Israel and become ruler of the whole world as the Son of Man [spoken of in Daniel 7].

Five important observations about what is taking place in Mark's story:

1. This passage is about the change and pivot point in the history of the world.
2. Jesus has foreknowledge, and knows and foretells what is taking place in the present, and the near and far future.
3. Jesus is completely intentional about what is taking place and is driving the bus in the events that follow.
4. This passage is telling us what is actually taking place with Jesus' suffering, false trial and death which is about to happen.
5. The old order of things is passing away and the new order of things is coming.

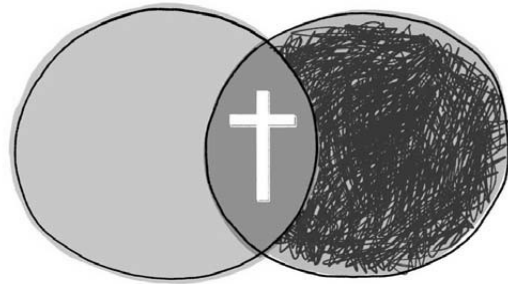
The story that follows with the betrayal, arrest, false accusations, trial and suffering of Jesus demonstrates and plays out the warnings Jesus gave about how difficult it will be for those who follow Him [Mark 8, 13]. Mark 14:26ff is a prophecy, and then a demonstration of the difficulty in faithfully following Jesus, even for those who want to. How easily folks can slumber when we should be awake, or be deceived or run in fear.

There are two great big insights given into what is actually taking place with these events and Jesus' death – they are the hinge and pivot point on everything else that is happening in our world.

These insights actually come from the declarations of Jesus' enemies:

"We heard Him say, 'I will demolish this sanctuary made by human hands, and in three days I will build another not made by hands.'" Mark 14:58

What the accusers say is exactly true. We know from the progression of the story what the first Christians also knew. The early church came to look upon the individual Christian (1 Cor 6:19; cf. Rev 3:12) and the whole church (1 Cor 3:16; 2 Cor 6:16; Eph 2:20-22) as the new temple.



Heaven

Earth

“Are You the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” “I am,” said Jesus, “and all of you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.” Mark 14:60-62

Jesus’ answer draws on both Daniel 7 and Psalm 110 which are about the enthronement of the Messiah. That is exactly, in a Puzzling, Paradoxical and Ironic way what happened with Jesus’ death. Jesus’ death is how He became King of the Universe.

His enthronement changes everything about the world because Jesus is now King and we are now living in the time between, where the declaration of WHO Jesus is – is to now ring out, and the world is to be preparing for His Return.

On the narrative level it appears Jesus cannot save Himself. Just the opposite is true. Jesus is not the victim. Something happened to these disciples after Jesus’ death, resurrection and receiving the Holy Spirit. They were changed! That is the “New Order”. Instead of huddling or running away in fear, they ran into the eye of the storm. Every one of them did what Jesus called them to do in Mark 8, 13. They intentionally drove into the storms of their circumstances with faithfulness and confidence, even to the point of death for Jesus’ sake and the kingdom.

Do you think God might be doing something greater, or working in a “Puzzling, Paradoxical and Ironic” way through His church in what is taking place in the coronavirus? Please explain.

Please spend some time praying, praising and worshipping God in your home.