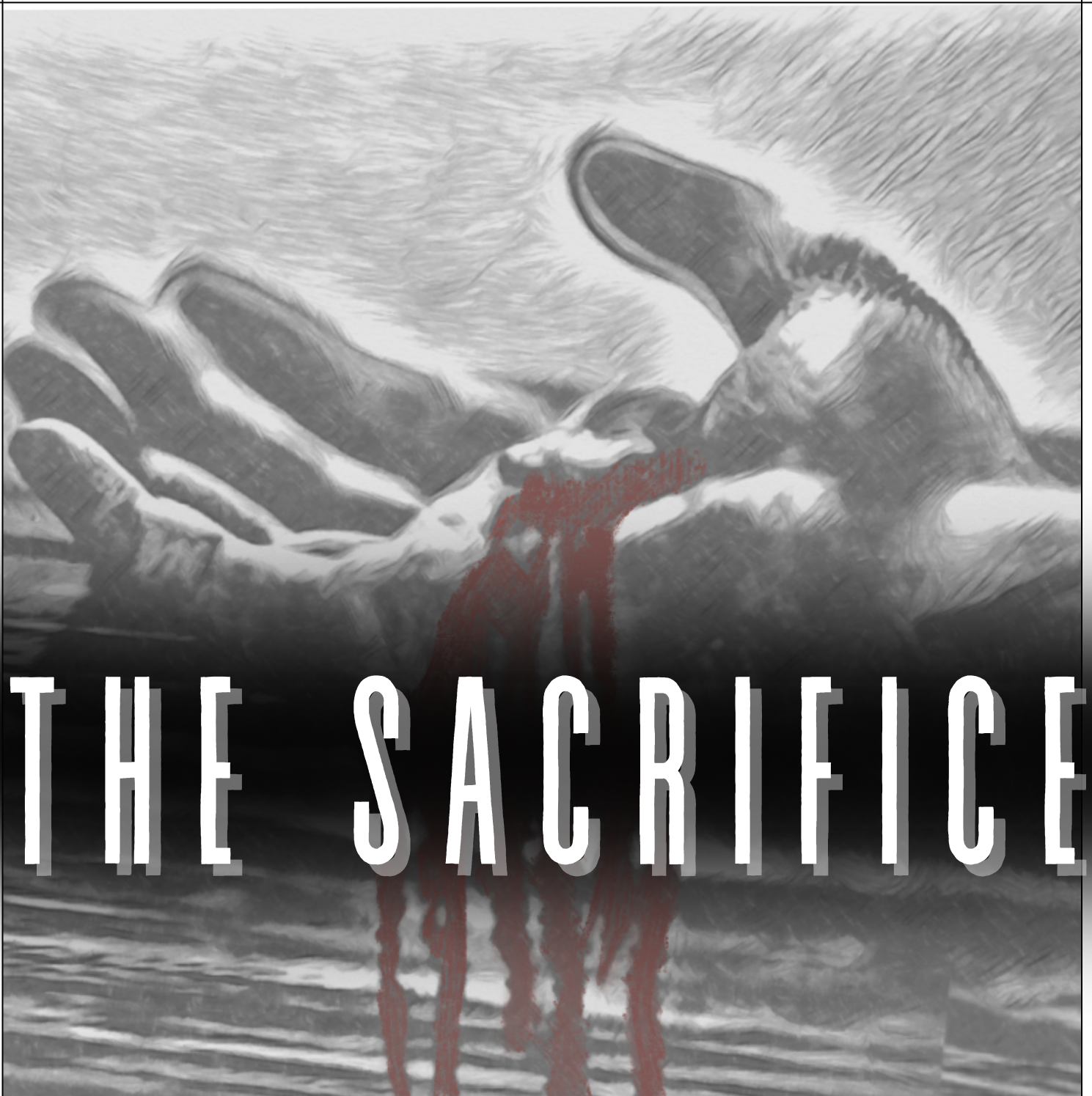


MARK



NEW HOPE CHURCH

NEW HOPE CHURCH DEVOTIONAL



THE SACRIFICE



OVERVIEW

Writing in the present tense, Mark involves us in the dramatic telling of Christ's life. It was written by Mark, who was a secretary and translator for Peter, one of the Twelve Disciples. As a result, this book is very much an eyewitness testimony from Peter. It is written in an abrupt manner where the action quickly jumps from one account to the next. Compared to the other gospel accounts (Matthew, Luke, and John) there is little teaching from Jesus. It is a gospel that very much focuses on seeing Jesus in action.

The Gospel of Mark is told in two symmetrical acts:

- Chapters 1-8 show Jesus in action as a servant. These chapters focus on Jesus' identity.
- Chapters 9-16 show Jesus as the sacrifice for sins. These chapters focus on His mission.

This devotional guide is designed to partner with the Sunday sermons as we, together, go through the second half of Mark and see Jesus as The Sacrifice. You are encouraged to take one entry per week and read the Bible passage, the devotional thoughts, and then respond to the questions and prompts. Spending time with the Lord on your own is an important practice to make a habit!

I'm excited to get to go on this adventure together and pray it is an encouraging and challenging journey. God bless,

Pastor Ryan Whitson



READ MARK*verses 9:2-29*

In Mark 9:2-13 we come to one of the most dramatic events in Scripture. In Jesus' life it ranks as one of the most glorious events of his earthly ministry, topped only by the glory of the resurrection, previewing the glory of the second coming of Jesus. We call it the Transfiguration and it is highlighted in three of the four gospel accounts. At the Transfiguration God shows how His plan to restore all things is working out through the ages into eternity. To reinforce the impact of His kingdom presence, Jesus heals a boy with an evil spirit in 9:14-29.

**HOW HAS GOD SHOWED YOU HIS GLORIOUS
POWER LATELY?**

**IN YOUR PRESENT SITUATION, WHAT WOULD IT
TAKE FOR GOD TO GET YOUR ATTENTION?**

verses 9:2-29

application

prayer

READ MARK

verses 10:1-16

As you read this passage, it might help to understand that the Pharisees are trying to get Jesus to take sides on an ongoing Jewish controversy: whether a man can be divorced for "any cause" (such as burning the toast), or only for adultery. (Read Matthew 19: 3-12 for a fuller statement.) The debate centers around the Mosaic law that gave permission for divorce in Deuteronomy 24:1 When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house. The debate among the rabbis tried to answer the question "What constitutes uncleanness?" Some said that uncleanness meant sexual immorality and said that was the only valid reason for divorce. But others understood uncleanness to mean any sort of discretion, even to the point of burning the breakfast. Mark's abbreviated version leaves out the adultery exception (Matt 19:9) because it was assumed.

Instead of getting involved in a debate about which interpretation should be accepted, Jesus goes back to creation and God's original intent for marriage.

***Why did the Mosaic Law allow divorce?
(Mark 10:4-5) What's an example of
"hardness of heart"***



verses 10:1-16

How does Jesus clarify **God's original intention for marriage** in the creation story? (Mark 10:6-7; Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:31).

What changes might occur if we think about marriage as God intended in Genesis 1 & 2?

How can we as a church actively affirm the beauty and goodness of marriage as God intended it – **a lifelong union between one man and one woman** – while also loving and ministering to our brothers and sisters who have been divorced?

Mark 10:6-7

"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,

READ MARK

verses 10:32-52

This week's passage has us reading through three different stories. Mark typically moves so quickly that sometimes passages can seem disjointed, but there is a common thread through these accounts: **faith**. In the first section, we see Jesus predict his death, warning his disciples. He does not sugarcoat anything, he tells them what will happen, but he ends with "**three days later he will rise**." The disciples are supposed to have faith through the leader's death because faith leads us through the bad. Then we see James and John ask the most selfish cringe-worthy question I can think of in the Bible. They desire a place of leadership, and you could argue they've earned it. But Jesus' response to them indicates that their faith should not lead them to selfish ambition instead, he shows that faith leads to serving. Lastly, we see Jesus heal the blind. It's interesting to note the question the man was asked by Jesus. The man asks Jesus for healing; he says, "Rabbi, I want to see," and Jesus responds, "Go, your faith has healed you." Faith is not wishful hope; it is trusting in a God that has shown so often that he can be counted on. Whether you are going through difficult things, being humbled to serve, or looking for healing, your faith will get you through.

**HOW HAS GOD SHOWN THAT HE CAN BE TRUSTED IN YOUR LIFE?
HOW HAS HE COME THROUGH FOR YOU?**

CHALLENGE: MEMORIZE MARK 10:45

verses 10:32-52

What is God asking you to
have faith in today?

prayer

READ MARK

verses 11:20-33

Notice the focus on God's authority as a common theme in this passage. Whether it's to cast judgment on Jerusalem's lack of fruit (Mark 11:20-22; also see Mark 11:13-19) or throwing a mountain into the sea (Mark 11:23-26), the authority, power, and sovereignty to do all of that rests in God. Our trust should not be in religious practices, or in our own power or deeds. God is the proper focus of our trust – there is nothing that is impossible for Him. The religious leaders had the audacity to question Jesus' authority (Mark 11:27-33). Jesus' clever response, using a question, showed their true loyalty and trust was not to the truth nor to God, but to themselves and their own desire for power and control.

*What is my faith focused on?
How has my faith fallen short of
Jesus' call to trust in Him?*

*Do I try to control my own life, and
only let Jesus in when it's convenient,
or am I submitting to Jesus as the
proper King of my life?*

verses 11:20-33

application

prayer

READ MARK

verses 12:28-44

In Mark 12:28-34, Jesus lays out the first and second most important commands. A scribe, who was part of the Sanhedrin, the governing body of the Jewish people, agrees with and approves of Jesus' answer. Jesus tells the scribe, "**You are not far from the Kingdom of God.**" Jesus reveals that it's not enough to have knowledge about God. For salvation, there is a need to go a step further and put your trust in Him. Knowledge about who God is, is important (Proverbs 2). But it's not enough for salvation. Even demons trust that God exists and know who Jesus is (Mark 1:24; Mark 5:7; James 2:19). They just don't put their trust in Him. Jesus recognized in this man that he likewise had knowledge of God but no trust in Him.

Do I just have knowledge ("faith that") God exists, or have I taken it a step further and put my trust ("faith in") Him?

HOW CAN I PURSUE LOVING GOD IN ALL THE WAYS THAT JESUS AFFIRMS IN THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT?

READ MARK

verses 12:28-44

In Mark 12:35-37, Jesus uses a question to exploit a flaw in the scribes' thinking about Messianic expectations. They anticipated the Messiah (Israel's promised King and Redeemer; see Isaiah 42:1, 61:1-3) to be a descendant of David, a man, but not divine. Jesus makes the point that in Psalm 110, David also identifies the Messiah as his Lord. This challenged the view of the religious leaders of the day about their misunderstanding of who the Messiah was. In this single exchange, Jesus affirms the Old Testament as inspired scripture, and makes a Messianic interpretation of Psalm 110, which not only identifies the coming Messiah as the Lord Himself, but also foreshadows His second coming, judgment, and victory (see Psalm 110:1-7).

When Jesus speaks in Scripture, do I believe what he has said? Or, do I try to make the Bible more agreeable to my own views about the world?

READ MARK

verses 12:28-44

Mark 12:38-44, Where Jesus earlier placed a higher priority on some commands to follow (read Mark 12:28-31), conversely, Jesus also reveals that some will receive harsher punishment than others, either due to the role that person played in the lives of others, or due to the specific laws that were broken (read Mark 9:42-48). He specifically calls out the greed and corruption of the religious leaders but exalts the sincere gift of a widow as more meaningful than all of the others because of her honor to God and sacrifice to give all that she had.

Remember that it honors God to give sacrificially. When I am focused on giving to God, I focus less on myself.

**GOD DOES NOT NEED ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY FROM ME.
WHAT HE DESIRES IS FOR ME TO GIVE OUT OF OBEDIENCE,
TRUST, AND GRATITUDE.**

verses 12:28-44

application

prayer

READ MARK

verses 14:1-11

The 14th chapter of Mark truly is the beginning of the end, in terms of Jesus time on Earth. In this passage we hear the chief priests plot to kill Jesus, see the anointing of Jesus by a woman, and we witness Judas's agreement to betray Jesus. While there is much to reflect on in these verses, this woman's act of worship seems most intriguing. She came to Jesus with an alabaster jar full of perfume; a special perfume called nard. It is estimated that this single jar of perfume would cost the equivalent of a year's wages for a common day laborer. This jar would have been coated with wax inside and sealed so as to preserve the fragrance and quality of the perfume, so to break the jar is to open the seal. Once this seal was compromised, there was no saving the perfume, it was to be used in its entirety. This seemingly reckless and absurd act (as it was perceived by others present) was nothing less than an anointing. This woman was worshipping Jesus not only by giving Him the best of what she had, but this was also a declaration of Jesus as the Lord and King of her life.

What would this look like in your life today?

If you were to give your best gift to Jesus to worship Him and anoint Him as king in your life, what would you give?

Jesus says specifically that what this woman has done will be preached all throughout the world (Matthew 26, Mark 14, and John 12) How might your testimony of worshipping Jesus with the best of you, have an impact on future generations?

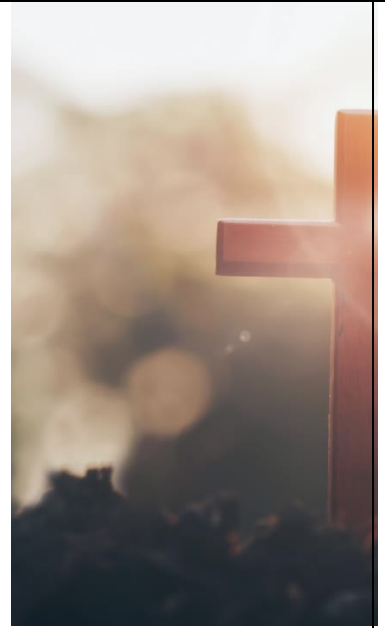
verses 14:1-11

application

prayer

READ MARK*verses 14:27-31*

In the time leading up to his death, Jesus often shares what will happen, and the disciples remain clueless about the reality of their life after His crucifixion. They are prideful and assert that they would never leave Him, but Peter ends up denying Jesus publicly, and others end up hiding or even returning to their old way of life just days after His death. The disciples made two errors in this passage. They were prideful – Peter says, “even though they all fall away, I will not.” and their pride led to them not being careful. Peter learns later to be cautious about the enemy that seeks to destroy our faith and our reputation. We read in 1 Peter 5:8, “Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”



THE DEVIL USED FEAR OF PERSECUTION TO SCATTER THE DISCIPLES AFTER JESUS' DEATH, AND STOPPED THEM FROM SHARING THE AMAZING NEWS OF THE MESSIAH. WHAT AREAS IN YOUR OWN LIFE ARE YOU OPEN TO ATTACK? HOW WOULD THE DEVIL TRY AND TAKE YOU OR YOUR FAMILY DOWN AND DESTROY YOU?

verses 14:27-31

application

prayer

READ MARK

verses 14:43-52

The betrayal. The physical altercation. The abandonment. While this was no one's finest hour, it certainly was not a highlight for the disciples. At this point, Jesus's freedom to do ministry is being taken from Him (so His captors believe) in a sense, His ministry has come to an end, yet in this moment everyone seems to have missed the point of **who He is** and **why He came**. Judas betrays Him with a kiss as if Jesus could be deceived. He didn't understand that Jesus knew his heart. The crowd comes armed with swords and clubs. They didn't understand that Jesus came for peace and not for violence. **The disciples fled**. They didn't understand that Jesus was to be followed, wherever He may lead.

While it may be easy to judge these folks, in honesty, we all know that emotional and desperate times challenge our conviction, and they put to test our trust and our faith. With this in mind, let's spend time reflecting on two ideas:

1

Are you grounded enough in your relationship with Jesus and identity in Him to weather such a storm? In a sense this is rhetorical, because we can't know until we go through it. However, this question serves as encouragement to dive deeper. To spend more time praying to Jesus, asking for the Holy Spirit, and meditating on God's Word. Another way of phrasing the question...

How deep are you sending down your roots?

Jesus died for all of the people present in the garden that night, and **He died for you too!** Even while they betrayed Him and deserted Him, Jesus was committed to His Father's Will. He was committed to the Father's inconceivable plan to redeem humanity. So, no matter where you are in your faith and no matter what you've done, Jesus died for you. His invitation to relationship and faith in Him persists. Today is the day to humbly accept His gift of love and to dive deeper into relationship with Him.

2

verses 14:43-52

HAVE YOU EVER RESPONDED TO GOD LIKE THE DISCIPLES DID?

application

prayer

READ MARK

verses 14:66-72

Peter is one of my favorite disciples, most likely to make great professions of faith, and most likely to put his foot in his mouth. Some of us have faith journeys like that. We have this fantastic moment of clarity or faith when we hear one sermon, after a women's conference, or after discovering a worship song that impacts us. But then we find ourselves a week later, or sometimes even quicker, denying Him with our lips or our actions. I've experienced this in the timespan of a day, proud of myself for waking up before children begin quarreling and spending time with God. Surrendering my day to Him and engaging with His Word. But just an hour later, I find myself yelling at kids to hurry up, or losing my cool about the half gallon of milk spilled on the breakfast table. In the quiet drive after the kids go off to school, I think, "what just happened?"



How often do you go between being faithful to God and denying Him with your life? When does it happen most?

Peter breaks down and weeps after knowing he denied Christ three times, just as prophesied. How do you feel in the quiet after a denial of Jesus' lordship in your life?

verses 14:66-72

Look at John 21:15-25.

How does Jesus treat those who have messed up?

application

prayer

Trials of Jesus

Those who wanted to arrest and “try” Jesus essentially plotted a murder from the very beginning. Technically, Rome didn’t allow the Jews the legal right to enforce capital punishment. Here are some of the ways that the Jewish leaders broke their own laws during the trials.

Jesus’ betrayers arrested Him based on a bribe to Judas (illegal). Judas, along with the armed mob and temple guards arrested Jesus on the night before a holy day and holiday (illegal), held a trial at night (illegal), and at a private home (illegal). Jesus is judged by a single individual instead of a council of judges (illegal), with no witnesses (illegal), no person offering a legal defense of Jesus (illegal), with His captors attempting to get Him to admit guilt instead.

Judas and the Jewish leaders scheme to arrest Jesus at night to reduce the chances that the crowds who adored Jesus would riot – yet, they came prepared just in case with soldiers and a mob of armed men. They first take Jesus to Annas, a former high priest with much influence. Then to Caiaphas the high priest, and to the Sanhedrin.

Trial #1: Jesus before Annas

Read John 18:12–24. Notice how Jesus answers the questioning from Annas. What is Jesus pointing out about the nature of his ministry? How does this contrast with the type of trial that is being held against him?



Trials of Jesus

Trial # 2: Jesus before Caiaphas:

John says that Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas the high priest (18:24), who was accompanied by the rest of the Sanhedrin. It was also here where Peter denied knowing Jesus the final time, when the rooster crowed, and which all four gospel writers depict (Matt 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62; John 18: 25-27).

Trial # 3: Jesus before the Sanhedrin

Read Luke 22:63-71 and Matthew 26:57-68;

Recall that the arrest and initial trials took place at night. What did they do with Jesus until they could hold a trial before the Sanhedrin in daylight?

Take a look at the dramatic response from the high priest – what was it about Jesus' response that elicited this response? (See Psalm 110:1 and Daniel 7:13-14)

Trial # 4: Jesus before Pilate

Read Luke 23:1-5; John 18:28-38a

How does Pilate view the accusations against Jesus in his initial questioning?

In Pilate's epic philosophical question, "What is truth?", what is ironic about the answer to his question? (Hint: John mentions the Greek word for truth *alétheia* 55 times in the Gospel of John)

Trials of Jesus



Trial # 5: Jesus before Herod

Read Luke 23:6-12

What ideas did Herod have about Jesus, and how do you think this impacted Jesus' response to him?

Why does Luke say that Herod and Pilate became friends? (Hint: Look ahead to Luke 23:14-15)

Trial # 6: Jesus before Pilate

Luke 23:13-25; Mark 15:6-15; John 18:38b-19:16

Does it seem like Pilate wanted to have Jesus crucified? Why do you think he did ultimately decide to order it? (Hint: John 19:12-16)

Prayer



“Have faith in God”

Jesus Answered

Mark 11:22

Thanks For Studying with Us

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