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The Jesus Identity

Studies in Mark's Gospel

Introduction: Mark 14:1-42

What do you make of the idea of God suffering at the hands of his creatures?

The "hour" has come. Jesus has previously told his disciples that he will be betrayed, beaten up, spit on, handed over to the Romans and crucified. And he will rise again on the third day (Mk 8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34). Until now, this has seemed incomprehensible to the disciples. But now this awful reality unfolds, just as it was told them.

Read Mark 14:1-11

1. What do the Priests, the woman and Judas have in common?
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2. What does Judas give the authorities that they have been looking for?
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3. What does Judas give the authorities that they have been looking for?
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Read Mark 14:12-25

How should a Christian respond to someone who betrays them?

4. What different reactions are there to Jesus' announcement that he will be betrayed? Why is the betrayal particularly tragic?
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[see also Psalm 41:9]

The Passover

The Passover. In Exodus 11-13, the Israelites were on the point of escaping from their slavery in Egypt. God had already sent plagues on Egypt to persuade Pharaoh to let them go free, but Pharaoh had consistently refused. Finally, God was going to send the last and most terrible judgment. Every first-born son in the every household would be killed. The Israelites, however, were told to sacrifice a lamb, paint its blood on their doorposts and eat the meat in preparation for their hurried escape into the wilderness. That way, the destroying angel would know which were God's people, and 'pass over' their homes. The people of Israel would be saved from God's judgment. After that, the Israelites remembered their salvation every year by celebrating the Passover feast.

5. How does Jesus reinterpret this Passover meal?
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What is the connection between this "last supper" and "The Lord's Supper" that we celebrate today?

How should we understand the bread and the wine at "The Lord's Supper"?

6. If this is the new meaning of the Passover, what do you expect to happen to Jesus if he is the new Passover lamb?

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7. [optional] What is the significance of Jesus' promise in 14:25?

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Read Mark 14:26-31

8. What does Jesus predict will happen to him and to his followers? How do you feel about Peter and his protestations?

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Read Mark 14:32-42

What do you do when you struggle to keep awake when you really want to pray?

9. What is the struggle facing the disciples?

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10. What is the struggle facing Jesus? (What is 'the cup'?)

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11. What do we learn here about Jesus' relationship with his Father?

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12. What do you pray when faced with what seems an impossible situation? How might you follow Jesus' model here?

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