Daily Bible Readings for Holy Week 2024

Monday: **Mark 11:12-33**

Questions to Consider:

- Why is Jesus angry with the fig tree and the temple? (Notice the connection?)

- What does their questioning of Jesus reveal about the religious leaders in Jerusalem?

Tuesday: **Mark 12:1-44**

Questions to Consider:

- What does Jesus’ parable (v. 1-12) reveal about coming reaction to the religious leaders’ rejection of Jesus?

- Instead of being trapped by their questions, how is Jesus able to overcome them and even go on the offensive?

Wednesday: **Mark 13:1-37**

Questions to Consider:

- What terrible and distracting things will be coming towards the End?

- How does the reality of Jesus’ triumphant return at the end of time change the nature of the waiting until then for His disciples?

Thursday: **Mark 14:1-72**

Questions to Consider:

- How does Jesus, Judas, and the woman with the ointment all distinctly prepare for the Passover?

- Why does Jesus pray with such agony in Gethsemane?

- Do you notice the calmness of Jesus once arrested, compared to the fear and cowardice of all His disciples?

Friday: **Mark 15:1-39**

Questions to Consider:

- How is the chosen King of God’s people treated?

- What is the tone of the voices that speak in this chapter?

Saturday: **Mark 15:40-47**

Questions to Consider:

- Why would it be important to note the eye witnesses who saw Jesus dead and buried?

- What does the “Kingdom of God” (v. 43) look like to Joseph on that Saturday? How about the following day?!

Daily Bible Reading Responses for Holy Week 2024

Monday: **Mark 11:12-33**

Responses:

- The stories of the fig tree and the temple go together. Jesus is disappointed and angry with both because they have refused to bear fruit – even though that is their intended purpose. The result will be condemnation for both. For those who cling to the temple instead of Jesus, they will share in that condemnation.

- The religious leaders questioning of Jesus revealed several things. First, that their questions weren’t sincere attempts to gain information or understanding – but rather traps to embarrass or trick Him. Second, their questioning of Jesus’ authority reveals that, just like with John, they have in their hearts already rejected Him – and the One who sent Him (and John). That will have tragic consequences.

Tuesday: **Mark 12:1-44**

Responses:

- The parable from Jesus illustrates that God will not sit idly by while His only begotten Son is rejected and killed. Wretched tenants will receive a wretched reward. God will certainly bring about justice in this scenario (along with His salvation for those who will believe in Jesus).

- Short answer: Jesus is able to overcome their traps because He IS the Messiah, Son of God – who knows God’s Word and will perfectly. He is able to turn things back onto His attackers because their obedience to God is conditional (Pharisees), their knowledge is mistaken (Sadducees), and their pride/piety is hypocritical (Scribes) – and Jesus points this out.

Wednesday: **Mark 13:1-37**

Responses:

- Before the End Times there will be false messiahs, wars and rumors of wars, famines, earthquakes, and other natural disasters, and days of tribulation for Christ’s followers. While these are “signs” that the End is near – they will also function as distractions, to try and pull Christians away from their faith. But that will be largely unsuccessful because the elect will maintain sincere faith.

- Knowing of and expecting Jesus’ triumphant return DEFINITELY changes things for His followers. His return will serve as the visible and final vindication of their faith and reliance in an unseen Savior. It will be like the tasting of fruit long hoped and waited for. This whole chapter is largely one Jesus gives as encouragement for His followers as they are waiting for Him.

Thursday: **Mark 14:1-72**

Responses:

- Jesus prepares for the Passover by making sure everything will be ready for a most special meal (which He will transform into a sacramental meal). Judas prepares for the future by looking for a way to betray Jesus for money. A woman prepares for the future by anointing Jesus’ body with expensive ointment. All three will have future implications – but two are godly and one is horribly treacherous.

- Jesus is in such agony because of the horrible choice that is staring at Him: save others or save Himself. He cannot do both, and His time to make that decision is quickly running out. At the same time, He’s probably starting to experience what it’s like to take the sin of the world upon His shoulders.

- Jesus’ calmness and courage are on FULL display Thursday and Friday – especially in comparison to the fear and cowardice of all His disciples. What this shows is that Jesus alone is the perfect Savior, the courageous and obedient Son of God who will do WHATEVER His Father wills – no matter how painful.

Friday: **Mark 15:1-39**

Responses:

- With strange irony, the “King of the Jews” is robed, crowned, and bowed down to. But instead of respect and honor, it is with cruel mocking and pain inflicted. (The great contrast here is the kind of treatment Jesus will receive when He returns again in glory with unquestioned authority over all…)

- The tone of the voices is interesting. Pilate’s was probably filled with curiosity or calculating indifference. The chief priest’s (and crowd) is filled with anger, envy, and murderous intentions. The soldiers’ voices are filled with cruelty. The voices of the mockers are filled with as much spite, malice, and meanness as is possible. It paints an awful picture.

Saturday: **Mark 15:40-47**

Responses:

- Eye witnesses are important to prove things in any case. They are especially used by Mark to assure the readers that Jesus was dead, was buried, and that His specific tomb was empty (of Him) – yet filled with an angel messenger.

- For Nicodemus the “Kingdom of God” (v. 43) looked like a corpse on Saturday, and must have felt like utter disappointment and sadness. But just one day later (if we use our western method of counting time), God’s Kingdom is alive and well because JESUS is alive and well and risen from the dead! What a huge difference a day makes – and what a huge difference a resurrected Jesus makes to the Christian faith and all that He has said and done and promised. 😊