



# The Gospel Of Mark

## 7 more studies from the Book of Mark (Part 7)

### **Please Note the following:**

1. It is not necessary to answer the Bible Study Questions before meeting together for the Bible Study. Some people like to prepare beforehand whereas others like to think through the Bible Passages in a group setting. It is also not compulsory to answer ALL the questions.
2. It is not necessary to look up all the Bible cross references listed in a particular question; your Growth Group Leader will summarize these Bible cross references for you.
3. Just a reminder that sometimes in our Growth Groups, people feel comfortable sharing very personal and sensitive things about their lives. This information **MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL and NEVER LEAVE THE GROUP**

**Study 1 – Jesus Anointed at Bethany****Mark 14:1-11***(Geoff Davidson Sermon on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026)***Read Mark 14:1-11**

1. What major Jewish festival is approaching, and why is that significant in Mark's Gospel? (v1)
2. What are the chief priests and scribes trying to do — and what are they afraid of? (vv1-2)
3. How does their secret plotting contrast with what the woman with the alabaster jar does?
4. What details does Mark give to highlight the cost and intentionality of the woman's action?
5. Why do some of those present react so strongly? Is there anything that sounds reasonable about their objection?
6. What does this moment reveal about how people can use good causes (like helping the poor) to resist wholehearted devotion?

7. **Reflection:** What does “*waste*” look like when measured by human standards and by God’s standards?
8. How does Jesus describe the woman’s action? Why is that description important?
9. What does Jesus mean by “*the poor you will always have with you*”?
10. According to Jesus, what has the woman actually understood about Him that others have missed?
11. Why do you think Jesus promises that her story will be remembered wherever the gospel is preached?
12. How do both the woman and Judas respond to Jesus emotionally and spiritually — and what do you think motivates their responses?
13. **Ponder:** In what subtle ways might we be tempted to resemble Judas more than the woman?

14. What does this passage teach us about the difference between religious activity and true worship?

15. **Reflection:** Is there something valuable — reputation, comfort, resources, control — that Jesus may be inviting you to pour out? How can you give Him your best?

16. How do the following Old Testament passages relate to **Mark 14:1-11**?

**2 Samuel 24:18-25**

**Isaiah 53:3-9**

**Deuteronomy 15:7–11**

**Psalm 2:1–2**

What's the **BIG IDEA** of **Mark 14:1-11**



**What light globe moment did you have?**

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

**Finish in prayer:** Lord Jesus, You are worthy of our very best. Thank You for loving us enough to go to the cross. Forgive us when our hearts are cautious, calculating, or distracted. Give us the courage to love You openly. Teach us to offer our time, our resources, and our lives as a beautiful thing in Your sight.

Guard us from cold hearts and divided loyalties. Help us to follow You faithfully, remembering that You first gave everything for us. In Your precious name, Amen.

**Study 2 – The Last Supper [A Meal Unlike Any Other]****Mark 14:12-26*****(Ian Warrell Sermon on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026)*****Read Mark 14:12-26**

1. What is the significance of this being the Festival of Unleavened Bread / Passover?
2. What does the detailed preparation (*the man carrying a jar, the furnished upper room*) reveal about Jesus?
3. How does this passage show both divine sovereignty and ordinary obedience?
4. Why is it important that Jesus celebrates Passover before His death?
5. **Ponder:** What Old Testament meal are they remembering? How does this OT event relate to Jesus?
6. Why do you think Jesus announces the betrayal during the meal?
7. What stands out about the disciples' response: ***“Surely you don't mean me?”***

8. What does this response reveal about self-awareness and humility?
  
9. **Reflection:** How do verses 18–21 balance God’s Divine plan (“as it is written”) and human responsibility (“woe to that man”)?
  
10. **Ponder:** What words or actions of Jesus would have shocked the disciples?
  
11. What does “***This is my body***” communicate?
  
12. What does “***This is my blood of the covenant***” echo from the Old Testament?  
(see Exodus 24:8)
  
13. Why does Jesus say His blood is “***poured out for many***”? (cf. Isaiah 53:12)
  
14. What future hope is expressed in verse 25?
  
15. Why is it significant that they sing a hymn before going out to the Mount of Olives?

16. What psalms were traditionally sung at Passover? (cf. Psalms 113–118 — the Hallel)

17. **Reflection:** Does this passage explain why we celebrate the Lord's Supper?

18. How do the following Old Testament passages relate to **Mark 14:12-26**?

**Exodus 12:1-14**

**Exodus 24:1-8**

**Isaiah 53:10-12**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

**Psalm 116 and Psalm 118 – Hallel Psalms (optional)**

What's the **BIG IDEA** of Mark 14:12-26



**What light globe moment did you have?**

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

**Finish in prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank You for being our Passover Lamb. Thank You for giving Your body and pouring out Your blood so that we might be forgiven and brought into a new covenant with God. As we remember this meal, help us never to treat Your sacrifice lightly. Give us grateful hearts, humble faith, and a deeper love for You. Strengthen us to trust You, even when the road ahead is difficult. Help us to fix our eyes on the promise of Your coming kingdom. In Your precious name, Amen.

### Study 3 – Failure and Faithfulness at Gethsemane

Mark 14:27-52

*(Sermon on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026)*

#### Read Mark 14:27-31

1. What does Jesus say the disciples will do and where is He quoting from?

*Jesus says that all the disciples will fall away because of Him.*

*He quotes from Zechariah 13:7:*

*“I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.”*

*Jesus identifies Himself as the Shepherd, and the disciples as the sheep who will scatter when He is struck.*

***But note: There is some hope in verse 28: “But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.” This shows that Jesus was already looking beyond the cross. He had His eyes fixed on the joy set before Him (Hebrews 12:2).***

2. What bold claim does Peter make? **What** does Jesus predict Peter will do?

*Peter claims that even if everyone else falls away, he never will.*

*Jesus predicts that Peter will deny Him three times before the rooster crows twice that very night.*

3. What bold claim do all the disciples make, including Peter in verse 31?

*They all insist:*

*“Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.”*

*Every disciple makes the same confident claim of loyalty.*

*“It is sometimes easier to bear a great load for Christ than a small one. Some of us could be martyrs at the stake more easily than confessors among sneering neighbors.” (Maclaren)*

## Read Mark 14:32-42

4. What instructions does Jesus give the disciples in Gethsemane? (verses 32-34)

*Jesus tells them to:*

- *Sit and pray while He prays*
- *Stay here and keep watch*

*He also reveals His deep anguish:*

*“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.”*

***Gethsemane:*** *This was a place just east of the temple mount area in Jerusalem, across the ravine of the Brook Kidron, and on the lower slopes of the Mount of Olives. Surrounded by ancient olive trees, **Gethsemane** means “olive press.” It was a place where olives from the neighborhood were **crushed** for their oil. So too, the Son of God would be **crushed** here.*

5. What’s impressive about Jesus’ prayer in verses 35 to 36?

*Several things stand out:*

- *Jesus speaks honestly about His distress.*
- *He asks if the “**cup**” of suffering can be taken away.*
- *Yet He submits completely to the Father’s will: “Yet not what I will, but what you will.”*

*It shows both true humanity and perfect obedience. Note: He calls His Father, Abba, which is equivalent to “Daddy”*

6. What are the disciples doing each time Jesus returns to them? Why 3 times?

*Each time Jesus returns, they are sleeping.*

*The repetition (three times):*

- *Highlights their weakness and failure*
- *Parallels Peter’s later three denials*
- *Emphasizes the contrast between Jesus’ faithfulness and their weakness*

***Peter must have been a bit startled to hear Jesus call him Simon. This was the old sleeping Simon, not the new man Peter. Peter was ready to resist any attack, except the attack of the Sandman.***

*Note: Jesus repeated the same prayer! (Mark 14:39). Jesus repeated the prayer outlined in Mark 14:34-36. Some say it is unspiritual, or reflects a lack of faith, to repeat prayers, yet we could never accuse Jesus of being unspiritual or of lacking faith.*

7. What reason does Jesus give for the disciples' need to pray and what is their problem? (verse 38)

*Jesus says they must pray: "so that you will not fall into temptation."*

*Their problem is: "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

*They have good intentions but lack spiritual strength.*

*It was bad enough that the disciples didn't **watch and pray** for themselves, but they should have been willing to **watch and pray** simply for the sake of Jesus. Through prayer and companionship, we must stand beside others in their time of need.*

8. What does verse 42 reveal about Jesus?

*Jesus shows resolve and readiness. He willingly moves toward His arrest, saying:*

*"Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"*

*He is not a victim of circumstances—He knowingly and willingly walks toward the cross. It's like Jesus says "let's get it over and done with!"*

### **Read Mark 14:43-52**

9. Who is in the arresting party in verse 43? And who leads it?

*The arresting group includes:*

- *Chief priests*
- *Teachers of the law*
- *Elders*
- *A crowd armed with swords and clubs [The Temple Guard]*

*They are led by Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples.*

10. How is the betrayal carried out? (verses 44 to 46)

*It happens in secret at night.*

*Judas gives a prearranged signal:*

- *The man he kisses is Jesus.*
- *He greets Him with “Rabbi!” and kisses Him.*

*A gesture of affection becomes an act of betrayal.*

11. What happened to one of the servants and how did Jesus respond? (verses 47 to 49)

*One disciple draws a sword and cuts off the ear of the high priest’s servant.*

*Jesus responds by:*

- *Stopping the violence*
- *Pointing out the irony that they arrest Him like a criminal*
- *Submitting because Scripture must be fulfilled*

*Luke tells us that Jesus healed the damage done by Peter (Luke 22:51; John 18:10). It isn’t the last time Jesus has had to leave behind a mess left by one of His followers.*

*“Had Jesus not healed Malchus, Peter would have been arrested as well; and there might have been four crosses at Calvary.” (Barclay)*

12. How do the disciples respond to Jesus’ arrest in verse 50? Is this surprising? (see Mark 14:27).

*They all flee and abandon Him.*

*This is not surprising, because Jesus had already predicted it in Mark 14:27.*

13. What unusual detail does Mark mention in verses 51 to 52? Why?

*A young man wearing only a linen garment follows Jesus.*

*When seized, he runs away naked, leaving the garment behind.*

*Possible reasons Mark includes this:*

- *A vivid eyewitness detail*
- *Illustrates the complete panic and abandonment*
- *Possibly a subtle reference to Mark himself. Acts 12:12 says the disciples used to meet at the home of Mark’s mother!*

*“The modest spirit of Mark seemed to say, ‘Friend Peter, while the Holy Ghost moves me to, tell thy fault, and let it stand on record, he also constrains me to write my own as a sort of preface to it, for I, too, in my mad, hare-brained folly, would have run,*

*unclothed as I was, upon the guard to rescue my Lord and Master; yet, at the first sight, of the rough legionaries, at the first gleam of their swords, away I fled, timid, faint-hearted, and afraid that I should be too roughly handled.” (Spurgeon)*

14. **Ponder:** Compare the response of Jesus with the response of the disciples?  
What do you think makes the difference?

*Jesus' Response:*

- *Prays*
- *Submits to God's will*
- *Faces suffering courageously*
- *Trusts the Father*

*Disciples' response:*

- *Sleep instead of praying*
- *Overestimate their strength*
- *Panic and flee*

*The difference is Jesus' dependence on the Father through prayer and obedience.*

15. How do the following Old Testament passages relate to **Mark 14:27-52**?

**Zechariah 13:7**

*This verse predicts the shepherd being struck and the sheep scattered, fulfilled when the disciples flee.*

**Isaiah 53:3-12**

*These verses describe the Suffering Servant that God will send:*

- *Rejected*
- *Bearing sins*
- *Silent before His accusers*

*Jesus' arrest and suffering begin the fulfillment.*

**Psalm 41:9**

*This verse says: “Even my close friend... has turned against me.”  
Foreshadows Judas’ betrayal.*

**Psalm 42:5-11 and Psalm 43:1-5**

*These verses express deep sorrow but continued trust in God.  
They mirror Jesus’ anguish in Gethsemane yet His hope in the Father.*

**Genesis 22:1-18**

*Genesis 22 describes Abraham’s willingness to offer Isaac as a sacrifice to God and this foreshadows what happens to Jesus:*

- *Jesus is God’s beloved son – like Isaac is Abraham’s beloved son*
- *Jesus is the sacrifice – just like Isaac was the intended sacrifice. Except God spared Isaac but not His only Son, Jesus!*
- *Abraham and Jesus both trust in God’s plan*

*Ultimately the sacrifice of Genesis 22 is completely fulfilled in Jesus.*

**Psalm 75:7-8**

*Psalm 75:7-8 speak of the **cup of God’s wrath**.  
Jesus refers to this **cup** [of God’s wrath] in Gethsemane.*

**Jeremiah 25:15-17 (Optional)**

*Jeremiah also describes the **cup of God’s wrath** given to the nations—pointing to the judgment Jesus will bear.*

**Psalm 88 (Optional)**

*Psalm 88 is a psalm of **deep suffering and darkness**, echoing the emotional weight of Jesus’ experience.*

**What’s the *BIG IDEA* of Mark 14:27-52**

*Jesus faithfully submits to the Father’s plan to suffer and die, while His closest followers fail and abandon Him—showing that our salvation depends on Christ’s faithfulness, not ours.*

**OR**  
*Jesus remains faithful while His disciples fail—our salvation rests on His faithfulness, not ours.*



**What light globe moment did you have?**

*If Mark is the naked young man, he must have heard Jesus' praying in the Garden, because the other three disciples were asleep!*

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

***28 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."***

***38 Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."***

**Finish in prayer:** Gracious Father, thank You for showing us the faithfulness of Your Son when others failed. Forgive us for the times we are sleepy, fearful, or overconfident. Teach us to watch and pray, and to trust Your will even when the path is hard. Strengthen us by Your Spirit to stand firm, and fill us with gratitude that Jesus stood alone for us. In His precious name we pray, Amen.



8. What triggers Peter to realize what he's done? How does he feel? (verse 72)
  
9. Why is the trial considered unjust or irregular?
  
10. What Old Testament imagery is Jesus using in verse 62?
  
11. Why is Jesus' simple statement "***I am***" so significant?
  
12. What contrast does Mark want us to see between Jesus and Peter?
  
13. Why is Peter's denial especially tragic in context? (cf. Mark 14:29-31)
  
14. **Reflection:** In what situations are Christians tempted to follow Jesus "***at a distance***"?
  
15. What fears most commonly lead believers to compromise or stay silent about Jesus?

16. What encourages you most about Jesus' faithfulness in this passage?
17. How does Peter's failure give hope to struggling believers today?
18. What practical steps help us remain faithful under pressure?
19. How do the following Old Testament passages relate to **Mark 14:53-72**?

**Daniel 7:13-14**

**Psalm 110:1**

**Isaiah 53:7-9**

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of **Mark 14:53-72**



**What light globe moment did you have?**

What ***questions*** do you have about the passages in this study?

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

**Finish in prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for the faithfulness of Your Son, Jesus, who stood firm even when all else failed. Forgive us for the times we deny or follow Him at a distance. Strengthen our hearts to trust and obey You, and help us rely on Your grace when we fall. Restore us, guide us, and keep us faithful to the end. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Study 5 – The Innocent King Condemned

Mark 15:1-20

*(Sermon on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026)*

### Read Mark 15:1-20

1. What do the religious leaders do? (verse 1)
2. What question does Pilate ask and what do you make of Jesus' reply? (verse 2)
3. How does Jesus respond to the accusations? Why does he reply in this way? Why is Jesus' silence significant? (verses 2 to 5)
4. Who is Barabbas, and why is he imprisoned? (verse 7)
5. What custom does Pilate follow? What does Pilate realise about the chief priests? (verses 6 and 8 to 11)
6. **Ponder:** Why do you think the crowd want to release Barabbas and crucify Jesus? (verses 11 to 13)
7. Why is Pilate hesitant to condemn Jesus? (verses 10 and 14)

8. What do we discover about Pilate's character in verse 15?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What do the soldiers do after Jesus is sentenced? What irony is there in their mocking of Jesus? (verses 16 to 20)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. **Reflection:** What irony is present in the choice of Barabbas over Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. **Reflection:** What role do envy and crowd pressure play in this passage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Where do we see "***Barabbas choices***" today — choosing what is wrong over what is right?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. What pressures might tempt Christians to stay silent about Jesus like Pilate did?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. How does Jesus' willing suffering strengthen your trust in Him?

15. In what ways is Jesus still mocked or rejected in our culture today?
16. How should believers respond when following Jesus brings opposition or ridicule?
17. How do the following Old Testament passages relate to **Mark 15:1-20**?

**Isaiah 53:3-7, 12**

**Psalm 2:1-6**

**Isaiah 50:6**

**Psalm 22:6-8**

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of **Mark 15:1-20**



**What light globe moment did you have?**

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

**Finish in prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank you for our Lord Jesus, the innocent King who was mocked and condemned in our place. Forgive us for the times we have followed the crowd or stayed silent when we should stand for Him. Fill us with gratitude for His saving love and give us courage to honour Christ as our true King. In His precious name we pray, Amen.

**Study 6 – Surely this man is the Son of God!****Mark 15:21-47*****(Sermon on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026 – Good Friday)*****Read Mark 15:21-47**

1. Who was forced to carry Jesus' cross? Why? Is there a teaching here? (verse 21)
2. What do they offer Jesus to drink, and what does He do? Why? (verse 23)
3. Why is "***dividing up his clothes***" significant? (verse 24)
4. What title is written above Jesus? What's the irony here? (verse 26)
5. Who is crucified alongside Jesus? (verse 27). **Optional: Read Genesis 40.** What is the connection to Jesus and the two criminals?
6. What kind of mocking does Jesus endure and from whom? How does that make you feel? (verses 29 to 32)

7. What unusual event happened in verse 33? (cf. Amos 8:9) Why do you think that happened?
  
8. What words does Jesus cry out in verse 34? Where are these words from? What would be going on for Jesus at that moment?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What misunderstanding is going on in verses 35 to 36?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What happens at the moment of Jesus' death? (verse 38) Why is that significant?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. What great confession is there in verse 39? Why is that significant?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Why is it significant that the ladies are present? (verses 40 to 41)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. Who ensures that Jesus receives a proper burial? (verses 43 to 46) Why is this risky?

14. Why is verse 47 important?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. **Reflection:** How does Jesus crucifixion affect you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
16. What does the cross teach us about the seriousness of sin?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
17. Do the actions of Simon Cyrene, the Centurion and Joseph of Arimathea give you your response to Jesus' death on a cruel cross?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
18. How do the following Old Testament passages relate to **Mark 15:21-47**?

**Numbers 21:4-9**

**Leviticus 16:1-19 (especially vv15-22)**

**Psalm 22**

## Isaiah 53:1-12

What's the **BIG IDEA** of Mark 15:21-47



**What light globe moment did you have?**

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

**Finish in prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank you for the great love shown to us in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you that through His suffering and death the way to you has been opened. Help us to trust Jesus more deeply, to live gratefully under His kingship, and to follow Him with courage and faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Study 7 – He is Risen! He is not here.****Mark 16:1-8***(Sermon on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Easter Sunday)***Before we begin:** Why is Easter a special time for you?**Read Mark 16:1-8**

1. Who comes to the tomb? Why is that significant? What actual day of the week is it and why is that significant? (verses 1 & 2)
2. What concern do the women have on their way to the tomb? (verse 3)
3. What do they discover when they arrive? (verse 4)
4. Whom do they see inside the tomb? (verse 5)
5. What announcement does the young man make? Should they/we be surprised? (verse 6)

6. What instructions are the women given? Again, should they/we be surprised? Why does the young man say “**and Peter**” (verse 7)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What do you make of the women’s response in verse 8?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. **Ponder:** Why is the rolled-away stone significant?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Why is the resurrection announcement central to the gospel?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What contrast do we see between the women’s expectations and God’s action
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. What “**stones**” do people today assume are impossible for God to move?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. When are believers tempted to respond with fear rather than faith?

13. How does the resurrection strengthen your confidence in Jesus' promises?
  
14. What does this passage teach us about God's grace toward failing disciples (like Peter)?
  
15. How can we be more faithful in sharing the good news of the risen Christ?
  
16. **Ponder:** Why does Mark end (at verse 8) with fear and silence?
  
17. **Optional:** Why are verses 9 to 20 in italics in your Bible and rarely preached on?  
**You can leave this question for your Bible Study leader if you prefer.**
  
18. How do the following Old Testament passages relate to **Mark 16:1-8**?  
**Jonah 1:1-17 (especially v17)**

**Psalm 16:9-11**

**Isaiah 53:10-12**

**Psalm 22:22-24**

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of **Mark 16:1-8**



**What light globe moment did you have?**

What ***questions*** do you have about the passages in this study?

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

**Finish in prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank you that the stone was rolled away and that our Lord Jesus is risen indeed. Fill us with joy and faith in the power of the empty tomb. Turn our fear into bold witness, and help us to live each day in the hope of the risen Christ. In His victorious name we pray, Amen.

**Studies prepared by Paul O'Rourke  
Toukley Presbyterian Church  
January/February 2026**

**Resources:**

The MacArthur Study Bible

New Bible Commentary (Carson, France, Moyter & Wenham)

The Gospel of Mark (William Barclay)

The Gospel of St. Mark Commentary by C.E.B. Cranfield

Preaching Mark by Phil Crowter

The Gospel of Mark by Ben Witherington III

Matthew Henry's Commentary