

# *Who is Jesus?*



Through the eyes of one of His followers –  
Mark

*Please pray before you read,  
and ask the Holy Spirit to show you what  
He wants you to know.  
Read the words in the Bible  
before you read the words in this booklet.*

## Day1.

Mark chapter 1 verses 1 to 20. (Mark 1:1-20)

Page 922

### Jesus has arrived.

#### **John the Baptist prepared the way.**

Expectant parents usually announce the arrival of a new baby but for Jesus it was very different. Unlike the other three gospels Mark did not mention Jesus' birth. Just before Jesus began His ministry, John the Baptist arrived to announce this fact. John began preparing the people for Jesus' arrival by calling them to **turn from the wrong way to a right way of living which is to God and His Way.** They immersed themselves in the River Jordan to demonstrate this new way of life..

John clearly taught that Jesus was greater than him, and that Jesus would 'immerse or dip' His followers in the Holy Spirit.

In the first section of Mark's book there are three important points to start the Christian faith.

1. **Repentance**, turning from our own way and going God's way
2. **Baptism in water**, to show that the old way is truly finished and new way of following Jesus has begun.
3. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit** to give power to live for Jesus and tell others about Him.

#### Jesus' baptism,

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, the trinity, were all present in action at Jesus' baptism

The Father spoke in favour of His Son. The Son stood ready to obey the Father's wishes, and the Holy Spirit came and rested on Jesus.

The Holy Spirit immediately sent Jesus into His first conflict with Satan. It is encouraging for new Christians to know that the Holy Spirit is in control and not Satan, and that in time of testing there are angels attending

#### **Jesus announced the good news.**

What is the good news?

The Kingdom of God has come.

**Repent**, turn from your own way, and start following Jesus, God's way of doing things; to **believe**, and start living the way Jesus did which is through the power of the Holy Spirit

**Jesus called His first disciples.**

Jesus was not a 'one man show'; He wanted others to join in working with Him. How to become disciples of Jesus?

1. **Follow Him**, by doing things the way He said
2. **Live for Him** in the way He has shown.
3. **Learn from Him**, the word disciple means a learner.  
Share the things learnt with others. Jesus called to follow and share.

*Prayer*

*Father, let us enter Your Kingdom as disciples, learners, through turning from our old ways, following You through baptism in water, and receiving the baptism of Your Holy Spirit.*

*Amen.*

( 'Amen' just means agreement with the prayer )

**A Man with a Mission.**

**Jesus drove out evil spirits.**

As Jesus taught the people, about the things of God, in the synagogue; the place of worship, an evil spirit raised its head, and spoke. The evil spirit knew Jesus. However He did not want publicity from Satan and showed His power, in exorcising the evil spirit. **Jesus is stronger than Satan.**

**Jesus healed many.**

When Jesus went to visit Peter, He healed his mother-in-law, and many others who were sick. **Jesus is stronger than sickness and evil spirits.**

**Jesus prayed in a solitary place.**

After a busy day, Jesus got up early and went, alone, to pray. He wanted to spend time with His Father, and all Christians need that time too. The disciples wanted Jesus to meet the needs of the crowd, but Jesus only did what His Father wanted.

**Jesus is stronger than the pull of popularity.**

**Jesus healed a man with leprosy.**

The man with leprosy knew that Jesus could heal him, but he was not sure that Jesus would. The amazing thing was, Jesus reached out and touched the ‘untouchable’ and healed him. He told the man to keep the rules of the nation, that is, to go to the priest, offer the sacrifice, and not to tell anyone how he was healed.

The man could not help himself, and told everybody he met about his healing. Jesus was then swamped with people wanting to be healed. They kept coming to be healed and He healed them. **Jesus is stronger than all disease.**

In this section, Jesus is seen as a man out and about doing the things that God the Father had told Him to do. Jesus has authority, power, over Satan, sickness, disease and Himself (He had authority over Himself to die to self). Soon the Kingdom of God was effective wherever Jesus went.

Where Jesus is, the Kingdom of God begins to rule, Satan, sickness, selfishness, self-importance and disease have to go.

***Prayer.***

*Father thank you for sending Jesus, a man with a mission, to bring Your rule to our earth. We pray that we will know Your power, so that we can see evil spirits, sickness, selfishness, and disease gone from our lives.*

*Amen.*

**The trouble begins.**

**Jesus forgave and healed a paralyzed man. Mark 2:1-12.**

News quickly spread that Jesus had the power to heal; people soon crowded around Him. Four men who believed that Jesus could heal brought a friend who was ill. They believed to the point where they put their faith into action. **We too need to believe, to the point, where it causes our lives to change giving us the desire to do it Jesus' way.**

When Jesus saw the sick man, He first dealt with the man's greatest need, forgiveness of sins. To the religious this was blasphemy, only God forgives sins. Jesus did not argue, but proved who He was by healing the man, and again indicating that He, **Jesus, has the power to forgive sins.**

Who was He claiming to be?

When the sick man was healed who did the people praise?

**Jesus called Levi and ate with sinners. Mark 2:13-17.**

Jesus called Levi or Matthew as he is more commonly known. The call to follow was instantly obeyed, and Matthew wanted his friends to meet Jesus. Jesus was often criticised for the company He kept. He clearly stated that **His purpose in coming was to call sinners. If we are Jesus' followers we should also be looking to bring others that need Jesus, to meet Him.**

**Jesus is questioned about fasting. Mark 2:18-22.**

When the people asked religious questions regarding fasting, Jesus said that relationship was more important. As He was with His followers, it was a time for feasting and joy, but a time would come where His followers would fast. Jesus is not against Christian discipline, but it has to be at the right time and for the right motives. The new things God was doing would not fit the old methods. There is new wine every year; **we should be open to God showing us the new way of keeping and then sharing the new things He gives us.**

**Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. Mark2:23-28.**

The Sabbath takes place from Friday Sunset to Saturday Sunset and is the Jewish day of rest given to them by God. When questioned by the religious leaders of His day, Jesus made it clear that **God's laws are made for man's good, and not manmade just to keep laws.** He declared that He is in charge of the Sabbath, again He claimed to be in the place of authority as God; not just a servant sent by God.

*Prayer.*

*Father, thank you that here we see Jesus going about doing what You have sent Him to do. Even when opposition gets in the way, He does not let it get to Him, but answers the questions and then gets on with the work You have given Him to do.*

*Amen.*

**Doing good caused trouble!**

**Jesus healed on the Sabbath. Mark 3:1-6.**

The synagogue was the place where the Jews met to read, discuss God's word and pray in order to increase their faith. Jesus showed by His question, that He knew what was going on in the minds of the religious leaders. He asked a question they were not willing to answer.

Jesus was angry for the religious leaders were more interested their rules, rather than the sick man becoming well. He didn't do anything which would count as work, He told the man to stretch out his hand, and it became well. The religious leaders went away to plot Jesus' death. What was really behind their desire to get Jesus out of the way, do you think?

**Crowds followed Jesus. Mark 3:7-12.**

When someone starts to heal people, crowds gather. Jesus did not pursue popularity, but the crowds sought and followed Him because He healed those who were sick. There were no health care services in Jesus' day. **Those who were sick believed if they just touched Jesus they would be healed**, and His presence had an amazing effect on those afflicted by evil spirits. The evil spirits clearly knew who Jesus was, but He didn't want publicity from the devil and his agents.

**Jesus appointed the twelve. Mark 3:13-19.**

Jesus chose twelve men to be with Him, to go out to preach and minister in the way He did. These twelve were known as disciples, those are willing to learn, and apostles, those that are sent out on a task. Jesus had them with Him to train them, then He sent them out to preach, and gave them authority to deal with evil spirits.

These twelve men were a very varied group of people. Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John were fishermen, and Jesus nicknamed James and John the sons of thunder. Matthew was a tax collector, and worked for the occupying Roman army. Simon the Zealot belonged to a group of Jewish freedom fighters. Thomas showed signs of having difficulty in believing. Judas Iscariot kept the money, and was known to help himself to some of the proceeds. He finally sold Jesus to the Jewish authorities. They must have had many struggles working together.

**When Jesus calls people to follow Him, He often places them with other people that they would not naturally get along with. This allows God's Holy Spirit to make them, like Jesus even more effective. Jesus calls whom He chooses, and then He makes them into disciples, often through working together with people they may not choose to work alongside.**

*Prayer.*

*Father please keep us from becoming more interested in our religious beliefs than in the people who need Your help. Help us to become more and more like Jesus. Help us to be willing to work with whoever you put us alongside with.*

*Amen.*

**Day 5.**

**Mark chapter 3 verses 20 to 35. (Mark 3:20-35)**

**Page 925.**

**Nobody understood**

**Jesus accused by His family and teachers of the Law. Mark 3:20-35.**

Have you ever had times when it feels like no one understands? We often go through times when we feel nobody understands. We try to do what is right and everything seems to go wrong. Jesus could have felt like that. He had unfair accusations from the religious leaders, and then even His own mother and brothers did not understand His mission or what He was doing.

Jesus had become so popular; He hardly had time to eat. His family arrived to try and take Him home; they were concerned He was going mad, and thought it was 'religious mania'. The religious leaders had another explanation, they decided Jesus was possessed by Satan; consequently He was able to drive out evil spirits because He was in league with Satan.

Jesus used an illustration to show how ridiculous their suggestion was. He pointed out that if He drove out evil spirits through Satan's power, Satan was fighting against his own troops

Jesus warned about the danger of saying that something is being done by Satan when it is actually being done by the Holy Spirit. (It is good to follow Gamaliel's advice in *Acts 5:34 -39 (Page 1008)*). At this point Jesus' family arrived and was looking for Him. **Jesus' view of His family wasn't narrow minded. He saw the family of God and stated that all who do God's will, are in His family.**

**There are many times in our lives as Christians when we are misunderstood and can easily take offence, but Jesus here shows us the way to answer wisely, but not become hurt or angered by what others think of us.**

***Prayer.***

***Father please help us to see people as You see them, and not to become over sensitive to the way we are being treated.***

***Amen.***

**Day 6.**

**Mark chapter 4 verses 1 to 20. (Mark4:1-20)**

**Page 925.**

**Jesus told a few stories (parables).**

**The Parable of the Sower. Mark 4:1-20**

Jesus often taught through story telling; often not giving an explanation as to what the stories meant; He told stories about things around, and that which would be known and understood. In this story Jesus later explained to His disciples who asked Him what it meant. The farmer sowed the seed which is God's word into people's lives. The four places that received the seed (God's word) had very different outcomes.

**Read this story asking Jesus which place, are our hearts most like?**

The first was a path, where the seed was sown, however it was quickly snatched away. There are times when God speaks into our hearts, but we don't want to hear and the devil quickly snatches what God is saying.

The second was a rocky one. The seed sown here began to grow, but when trouble came, fear took over, and what God had said was quickly forgotten.

The third was among the thorns. The seed sown began grow, but it was choked out by worries... Things that are acquired and those that are needed etc, etc, etc can soon be cause for worry so much so that listening to Jesus is no longer a priority Worry is a killer in so many ways.

The final place was good ground. The seed sown here has fallen on to a willing and receptive place. **It was received gladly and acted upon giving the Holy Spirit opportunity to work bringing God's word to 'fruition' in every area... This produced a good harvest which provided food for others.** These are the unselfish people who were willing to provide for other people.

***Prayer***

***Father, please help us to hear what You are saying, to receive it with gladness, with no fear or worry, but willing to do what You say so that others may be blessed.***

***Amen.***

**Day 7.**

**Mark chapter 4 verses 21 to 41. (Mark 4:21-41)**

**Page 926.**

**More stories from and about Jesus.**

**A lamp on a stand. Mark 4:21-25.**

Jesus told His followers that they were meant to be lights to show others the way to find Him. **Jesus never intended His followers to be secret disciples**, but to openly let people know who they followed. **Jesus encourages us, His followers, to be generous in all we do. He teaches that those who give away what they have will receive more, so that more can be given away!**

**The parable of the growing seed. Mark 4:26-29.**

Jesus showed that it is not always known how God's kingdom grows; when God plants it will grow. A seed takes time to grow, and God's Kingdom is the same; blossom does not come overnight; growth happens a little at a time. The time will come when God's life in us is at a place where He can harvest the good things that He has grown in us.

**The parable of the mustard seed. Mark 4:30-34.**

Worry often comes due to the size of things often wanting God to do big things. Jesus told the story of the tiny mustard seed; the smallest seed known at the time...God will sometimes do or plant what can seem small in our lives, but in time it will grow and become large enough to provide shelter for others. **In all these parables Jesus emphasised that the growth in our lives are for the benefit of others and not just for us to look great** It is God's principle that things begin small and grow into greater things. (*Zechariah 4:10 page 874*).

**Jesus calmed the storm. Mark 4:35 - 41.**

Jesus instructed His disciples to go to the other side. He did not tell how to get there and was able to sleep despite all the mayhem and fear happening around Him. He had instructions from His Father and knew that God was able to keep them despite everything. Jesus, demonstrated to the disciples He had complete authority over all natural happenings, when He calmed the storm with the words 'Quiet be still'. This incident caused Jesus to question their faith, and them to question who He was. **There are many things in our lives which will cause Jesus to question our faith in Him, and cause us to realize how mighty Jesus is.**

*Prayer.*

*Father, help us to have faith in You, even in the times of storm, and let each incident in our lives cause us to know even more clearly who You really are.*

*Amen.*

**Day 8.**

**Mark chapter 5 verses 1 to 20. (Mark 5:1-20)**

**Page 926.**

**Jesus is stronger than the devil.**

**Jesus restored the demon-possessed man. Mark 5:1-20.**

A man with an evil spirit came to meet Jesus. He was so bound by the power of the evil spirit that he could not live an ordinary life and was not safe among other people. The evil spirit restricted and bound him in all normal activities and caused him to self harm. The devil is no gentleman if allowed to take control he then 'runs the show'. We are not in control, he is.

When Jesus appeared the man ran towards Him, but the power in him had to kneel before Jesus. Jesus was in control and told the spirit to go. The spirit sought to answer back, and get involved in dialogue with Jesus; He required the spirit to name itself, and then commanded the army of evil spirits to leave. **Jesus is in control and the evil spirits have to obey Him.** When the army of evil spirits had gone the man was immediately restored, dressed, sitting and in his right mind.

When Jesus enters into a person's life all that is of the devil must go. **We can choose whom we wish to be in control of our lives, Jesus or the devil.**

What a reaction by the local people! They saw the man, dressed, sitting and in his right mind and all they were worried about is the loss of pigs! This man's release brought fear to the people. People are often afraid of what they do not easily understand. They responded by asking Jesus to leave.

The man who had been set free by Jesus wanted to go with Jesus and be His disciple, but Jesus asked the man to stay where he was known and share the good things Jesus had done for him. **Jesus often asks us to stay where we are known and to share what Jesus has done for us. The people around us can quickly see if the things we are claiming Jesus has done for us, and in us, are true or not.** The people who originally were afraid then became amazed, and the glory went to God.

***Prayer.***

***Father, please help us to allow Jesus to remove all that is not of You from our lives, and help us to show others the good things You have done in us.***

***Amen.***

**Day 9.**

**Mark chapter 5 verses 21 to 43. (Mark 5:21-43)**

**Page 927.**

**Jesus is stronger than death.**

**Jesus raised a dead girl and healed a sick woman. Mark 5:21-43.**

By now Jesus' popularity increased and wherever He went crowds followed Him. The people had their own reasons for wanting Jesus. The synagogue leader came to Him to ask for prayer for his dying daughter. He had faith that if Jesus touched her she would be healed and Jesus agreed to go with him. On another occasion someone came and asked Jesus, to only speak a word, so that his servant back home would be healed and he was. **Jesus dealt with people according to their faith.** This man needed Jesus to touch his daughter. On the way to his home, a woman who had been hemorrhaging for twelve years moved towards Jesus through the crowd. Her faith said 'if only I can touch his clothes I will be healed.' She touched the bottom of his cloak and immediately knew that she was well. **Jesus met her at the level of her faith.** He knew that someone had reached out in faith, and asked who had touched Him and persisted until the woman came forward. She needed to see that her faith in the power of God healed her and not something magical in Jesus' clothes. Jesus always pointed peoples' faith to God and not in anything or anyone else.

At this point a group arrived from the Synagogue leader's home to tell him that his daughter had died. The man's world fell apart, but Jesus encouraged him with the words 'don't be afraid, only believe'. With Jesus nothing is impossible, but we need to believe in Him. When they arrived, the burial preparations had already begun. Jesus took the girl's parents, and His closest disciples went to see the child. Jesus never made a show of healing people. When He prayed He took the girl's hand and told her to get up. The power of God's life in Jesus caused the little girl to rise. Again Jesus did not want a show, He told the girl's father to tell no-one.

**Jesus asks us to come to Him honestly, and with the faith to believe that He can do what we ask of Him without a show or any fuss.**

***Prayer.***

***Father, please help us to come to You in faith. We believe that You not only have the power to meet us, but also the willingness to do so.***

***Amen.***

**Day 10.**

**Mark chapter 6 verses 1 to 29. (Mark 6:1-29)**

**Page 927.**

**The joys of being a prophet!**

**A prophet without honour. Mark 6:1-6a.**

When Jesus went home; He experienced the same problem that we all do, that is people remember us as we were! People who come to faith in Jesus are promised that they will be made brand new from inside, out. As soon as they saw Jesus they talked about His family, and it offended them that Jesus was being used of God to do so many wonderful miracles. People who have known us before we met with Jesus are often quick to remember what we were rather than who we are now. Jesus' power to heal was hampered by their lack of faith.

**Jesus sent out the twelve. Mark 6:6b-13.**

**Jesus never kept His work to Himself**, but chose twelve disciples to go and do the same and gave them the power to do it Jesus instructed His disciples what to take, what to do and how to do it.

The disciples went out and:

1. Preached for the people to repent
2. Delivered those who were oppressed by evil spirits
3. Anointed the sick with oil and healed them.

**If we are Jesus' disciples then He will send us to do the same things**

**John the Baptist beheaded. Mark 6:14-29.**

Following Jesus does not guarantee automatic protection from life's difficulties. John did what God told him; this brought conflict with the leaders of his day. **Sometimes following Jesus might put us into conflict with our leaders.**

Herod was a fickle leader, when he heard John he was puzzled, and liked to listen to but did not want to change his lifestyle... He made a rash promise of giving his step-daughter anything she asked for, and then was too concerned about what others thought of him, to refuse the outrageous request, and so had John beheaded.

***Prayer.***

***Father, please help us to do what you have asked us to do. Help us not to be influenced by what others think, but to be always ready to do what You tell us to do.***

***Amen.***

**Day 11.**

**Mark chapter 6 verses 30 to 56. (Mark 6:30-56)**

**Page 928.**

**Jesus is miraculous.**

**Jesus fed the 5,000. Mark 6:30-44.**

Jesus and the apostles looked for a quiet place to rest, but when they got there, there was a large crowd waiting. See Jesus' heart; He had compassion on the people and taught them. Jesus and His disciples differed in their method in dealing with the crowds' need for food. The disciples wanted to send the people away to find food, but Jesus said to feed them this often is the way Jesus and His followers differed. **Jesus wanted His disciples to meet the needs of the hungry people through faith in His amazing power, while Jesus' followers often wanted to send the people away to look after themselves.**

The disciples then tried to work out how much food would be needed to feed the people; Jesus asked how much food was available. The answer was not encouraging... Five loaves and two fish.

Jesus had the people sit down in an orderly manner; He took the food and prayed. To see a miracle happen, the need must be brought to God, followed by waiting for His miraculous intervention. **We cannot organise a miracle, until God breaks into the natural and does something supernatural.** With this meager amount of food Jesus fed the multitude to the point of satisfaction. **It is only Jesus who can satisfy us.**

**Jesus walked on water. Mark 6:45-56.**

Jesus sent the disciples back across the lake, and the crowds home before He went away to pray. Jesus walked on the lake passing His disciples in their boat. In ancient times, the Egyptians wrote in hieroglyphics, their symbol for the word impossible was a pair of feet walking on water!

When Jesus saw their fear He called out and then joined them in the boat. The disciples fear turned to amazement. Jesus is not usual and cannot be tied down to conventional methods. That is still true today. Jesus will do with us, what is necessary to see His kingdom grow. **He will not fit into our little plans and ways of thinking.**

When they arrived on the other side of the lake the people were there with the sick and needy. Wherever Jesus went people came to be healed, and they were healed.

***Prayer.***

***Father, thank you that Jesus is always concerned for people; help us to come to Him to have all our needs met, and then to live our lives serving others.***

**Day 12.**

**Mark Chapter 7 verses 1 to 23. (Mark 7:1-23)**

**Page 929.**

**Jesus and religious ‘nit-picking’**

**That which defiles. Mark 7:1-23.**

Lots of people came to see Jesus for different reasons, but these came to find fault. They were not hygienists concerned with health issues, but trouble makers wanting to protect their petty rules. They noticed the disciples not keeping them and asked Jesus about this. Jesus branded them as hypocrites, and **stated that they are following God with their mouths and not their hearts.**

Jesus showed up the areas where these people made rules for their own convenience. He also stated that they were willing to ‘bend’ God’s rules regarding the poor so that they could keep the money for themselves. **God’s rules are there to help people care for others; these people were using and ‘bending’ them, to care for themselves.**

Jesus taught the crowd what it was to be unclean before God. What goes through the mouth in the way of food goes through and out that is unclean before God but what comes out of the mouth is what is inside...Jesus listed the things that come are a revelation of what is going on inside:-

1. Evil thoughts- including wrong thoughts concerning others.
2. Sexual immorality-all sexual intercourse outside of marriage between a man and a woman.
3. Theft - including taking anything which is not ours to take.
4. Murder - hating is the same as murder, destroying another person’s reputation would also come into this category.
5. Adultery - sexual intercourse with anyone who is married to anyone else, or sexual intercourse with someone when we are married to another.
6. Greed - an overwhelming desire to have more and more.
7. Malice - a destructive attitude to others.
8. Deceit - a hiding of true thoughts, words or actions.
9. Lewdness - an overbearing concentration on sexual matters.
- 10 Envy - being jealous of something someone else has got.
- 11 Slander - spreading rumours about someone to hurt their reputation.
- 12 Arrogance - thinking more of yourself than others
- 13 Folly - being foolish, stupid or reckless.

**When any or all of these attitudes and actions are in our lives it reveals what is**

going on inside of us.

*Prayer.*

*Father, please help us to allow the Holy Spirit to lead our lives, and keep us from 'nit-picking' in the lives of others.*

*Amen.*

**Day 13.**

**Mark chapter 7 verses 24 to 37. (Mark 7:24-37)**

**Page 930.**

**Jesus found faith.**

**Jesus honoured a Syrophenician woman's faith. Mark 7:24-30.**

After moving away from the religious 'nit-pickers' Jesus went looking for a place to rest, but His presence could not be kept a secret. A non-Jewish (Gentile) lady came to Jesus asking help for her daughter

Jesus appeared to be rather rude to the lady the fact was that He had been sent to the Jewish people and not the Gentiles. He used the illustration that bread for the children is not thrown to the dogs however she quickly answered saying that all she wanted were the crumbs that fell from the table. Her faith did not need Jesus' whole attention, but was sure He could heal her daughter with just a little of His, God given, power. Jesus remarked on her reply and dealt with her request.

**Jesus healed a deaf and mute man. Mark 7:31-37.**

As Jesus arrived back to Israel, He was approached by a crowd who brought a deaf and mute man to be healed. Jesus in His compassion took the man away from the crowd and healed him. **Jesus was not here to put on a show.** He dealt with each person as an individual and did not have a 'one size fits all' answer. After being healed, the man could hear and speak instantly. Jesus instructed him to tell no-one but the crowd soon spread the news about the amazing thing they had just witnessed **These crowds were witnesses of the amazing things they had seen Jesus do, and they spoke about them. When we received Jesus we should also witness to others about the amazing things Jesus has done for us.**

***Prayer.***

***Father, help us to be open to the amazing things that Jesus has done for us, and then give us the faith to believe and tell others about these wonderful things that Jesus has done for us***

***Amen.***

**Day 14.**

**Mark chapter 8 verses 1 to 21. (Mark 8:1-21)**

**Page 930.**

**More bread for hungry people.**

**Jesus fed the four thousand. Mark 8:1-13.**

Jesus fed these people because of He was a compassionate Man. Even though the disciples saw Jesus feed the 5,000, they still doubted that He could feed the 4,000! Even though there were less people, and more bread. Jesus had the people sit down however **He did not take the multiplication of food for granted but prayed, gave thanks and let God do the miracle.** Jesus did not hand the food out; His disciples did.

When Jesus moved on to the next place, the Pharisees came again to test Him. It appeared that their whole purpose of seeking Jesus out was to see Him make a mistake. **When we have decided someone or something is wrong everything we see is through the filter of our desire to prove them wrong.** They asked Jesus to give them a sign to prove His identity, Jesus refused, and He knew their request was not genuine. Neither did they want to believe, Jesus did not waste time or energy on hypocrites He was open only to God and not controlled by people.

**The Pharisees and Herod's yeast. Mark 8:14-21.**

Jesus warned His disciples, whose minds were on earthly things, about the trap Herod and the Pharisees were trying to set. They thought that Jesus was talking about the lack of bread. Jesus reminded them that if He could supply bread for the 5000 with five loaves and twelve baskets left over, and 4,000 with seven loaves and same amount of baskets left over, surely He could feed them. Jesus said He was not talking about natural bread, but the yeast which is the attitude the Pharisees had that seeps into every area of our lives if we let it. **It is so easy for us as human beings to become critical and judgmental of others; Jesus warns His disciples of the dangers of this.**

***Prayer.***

***Father, please help us to be the ones one who feed others and bring them help, and not the ones who criticizes looking for their faults and failings.***

***Amen.***

**Day 15.**

**Mark chapter 8 verses 22 to chapter 9 verse 1. (Mark8:22-9:1)Page 931.**

### **Death on the horizon.**

**Jesus healed a blind man at Bethsaida. Mark 8:22-26.**

The people wanted to see the blind man healed by Jesus but again Jesus was not having this, He took the man out of view, He did not have a manual on 'how to pray for blind men', but did what His Father told Him to. This is the only miracle where Jesus appeared to heal in stages. It is not known why, but the man was healed and could see clearly Jesus told him not to go to the village. **Jesus never sought publicity unlike so many of His followers today!**

**Peter declared that Jesus is the Messiah. Mark 8:27-30.**

Jesus wanted to know who people thought He was so He asked His disciples. They gave Him various answers He then asked who they thought He was, Peter said, 'You are the Messiah'. Jesus did not contradict him but He commissioned them not to tell anyone who He is.

**Jesus predicted His death. Mark 8:31-33.**

After Peter's declaration that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus warned them that He would die and rise again after three days. Peter who got it so right now got it completely wrong he spoke from his natural feelings and said 'No' to what Jesus just said. Jesus, to the point told him that anything that is against God's will is off the devil. He did not waste time in telling Peter that he was being used by the Devil to divert Jesus from God's plan **we must be quick to hear what God is saying, and not to listen to our own thoughts and feelings.**

**The way of the cross. Mark 8:34-9:1.**

Jesus clearly laid out His criteria for discipleship and it has not changed.

1. Deny yourself - don't follow your own desires, but God's will
2. Take up the cross - be willing to suffer for Jesus.
3. Follow Jesus - do all the things Jesus asks of you.
4. If necessary lose your life - don't count anything or anyone more important than Jesus.
5. Don't get caught up with the world's thinking - live by Jesus' thoughts and plans.
6. Don't be ashamed of Jesus - be willing to stand for the truth of who Jesus is.
7. Don't be ashamed of doing what Jesus says - be willing to follow Jesus'

instructions in your life.

***Prayer.***

***Father, help us to hear what You are saying in each situation, and do not let us think, speak or do those things from own imagination. Help us to be true disciples in everything we think, say and do.***

***Amen.***

**Day 16.**

**Mark chapter 9 verse 2 to 29. (Mark 9:2-29)**

**Page 931.**

**Jesus seen in power and glory.**

**The Transfiguration. Mark 9:2-13.**

Jesus only once allowed three of His disciples see Him as He really is, in all His glory. The effect it had on the disciples was incredible, Peter not knowing what to say as usual blundered in and offered to build three shrines. **When something is seen in the supernatural there is a desire in mankind to build a shrine, perhaps to capture the moment, or for somewhere to come back to and relive the experience.**

The voice from heaven made it very clear the person who should be worshipped and obeyed. ‘This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to Him. Jesus didn’t want to the disciples to broadcast the experience till He had risen from the dead and confirmed what the prophet, John the Baptist ‘the voice in the wilderness’, said about the coming Messiah had accomplished his mission.

**Jesus healed the boy possessed by an evil spirit. Mark 9:14-29.**

Jesus was sorry that the disciples could not deal with the evil spirit due to their lack of faith. He took time to speak to the boy’s father about his faith. **Jesus took the man from the place of little or no faith, a place of ‘I do believe, help my unbelief’.** He dealt with the evil spirit and the boy was delivered; when questioned by the disciples over their inability to deal with the evil spirit; Jesus spoke about the importance of prayer that is being in constant touch with the Father.

***Prayer.***

***Father, help us to follow You, and not stop along the way to build religious shrines, also please help our faith in You to grow and develop.***

***Amen.***

**Day 17.**

**Mark chapter 9 verses 30 to 50. (Mark 9:30-50)**

**Page 93**

**The way to the cross; more teaching for His disciples.**

**Jesus predicted His death a second time. Mark 9:30-37.**

Jesus started to take specific time to teach His disciples. They moved away from the crowds and He spoke about His death and resurrection again. The disciples did not understand, and were unwilling to ask Jesus, however they did not waste any time in arguing as to which of them was the greatest!

Jesus gave them a lesson on position...The one who is to be first must first be a servant to others. **Position with Jesus is about serving others and not pushing forward.** Jesus took a child, and said that the disciples needed to welcome and receive children. **There is no place in Jesus' kingdom for an 'adults only' policy.**

**Whoever is not against us if for us. Mark 9:38 - 41.**

The disciples tried to fence those in their group, but Jesus would not allow this. Jesus stated that those not against them are for them. Jesus in His thinking was inclusive not exclusive

**Causing to stumble. Mark 9:42-50.**

Jesus spoke strongly concerning those who caused children to fall away from Him. It would be better for them to be killed than destroy the faith of a little one in God's kingdom.

Jesus said to deal radically with anything that causes faith to be lost; it is better to be disabled in heaven than to lose faith and end up in hell. Jesus believed in Hell.

Stay 'salty' in Him and live in peace with one another, Jesus encouraged.

***Prayer.***

***Father, please help us to listen carefully to all that You say, let us not be exclusive in our thinking; help us to deal radically with anything pushing us away from You.***

***Amen.***

**Day 18.**

**Mark chapter 10 verses 1 to 31. (Mark 10:1-31)**

**Page 933.**

**Life Lessons.**

**Divorce. Mark 10:1-12.**

Jesus was back teaching the crowds, and it was not long before the Pharisees turned up with their 'test' questions! They ask a legal question regarding divorce. Jesus answered with another question; the Pharisees replied with an answer according to the law. **Jesus explained that the God's purpose for marriage was to make a whole person out of two...** He stated that no man had the right to separate what God has joined. Jesus' answer is a revelation to adultery.

**Jesus with little children. Mark 10:13-16.**

Jesus always encouraged children to come to Him; He never pushed them away and was always ready to bless them. He commended childlike faith and said we should trust God the same way that children do

**The rich and the Kingdom of God. Mark10:17-31.**

A man approached Jesus wanting to know God's way. Jesus told him to keep the commandments and the man replied that he had done so. Jesus put His finger on the one thing holding the man back, his wealth. It can be different things for different people, but whatever it may be Jesus will ask us give up anything that holds us back. This man went away leaving behind eternal life, **each of us has the choice to follow Jesus or the things that mean more to us than Jesus.** Leaving Jesus means leaving eternal life.

The disciples had been taught that riches were proof of pleasing God and were amazed when Jesus said it was hard for rich people to get into God's kingdom. It is similar today particularly in West, there is a presumption that wealth and health are our rights, but what about our brothers and sisters in the third world who follow Jesus fully and have learnt to be content with much less..

Peter mentioned to Jesus that the disciples had given up everything to follow Him, and Jesus then lists all that is available to them because of their obedience, a hundred fold replacement of homes, family and business with PERSECUTION in this life and eternal life in the next.

***Prayer.***

***Father, please help us to follow You whatever the cost.***

***Amen.***

**Day 19.**

**Mark chapter 10 verses 32 to 52. (Mark 10:32-34)**

**Page 934.**

**Jesus looked to the future.**

**Jesus predicted His death a third time. (Mark 10:32-34.**

Jesus gave a graphic description of what would happen to Him. His trial, beatings, death and resurrection. The disciples could not fathom this

**James and John's request. Mark 10:35-45.**

Human nature does not change without a work of God's Holy Spirit. James and John had been with Jesus for nearly three years, and still thought the same they wanted the top position in God's Kingdom; the other ten were no better. They were angry with James and John's request because they wanted similar positions too. Jesus explained how God's Kingdom worked again **be humble and a servant to others**. The top place belongs to those who are willing to be slaves to others! Jesus pointed out that He came as a servant to the point of giving His life for others

**Blind Bartimaeus received his sight. Mark 10:46-52.**

When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was around, he began to shout for help and showed his faith by shouting louder and would not be silenced He did not claim any rights to Jesus but cried for mercy, which is undeserved help. **As we call to Jesus we too need to shout for His mercy. We have done nothing to deserve His help, but we can call upon His kindness and mercy to help us.**

Bartimaeus did not stop calling till Jesus stopped and asked to see him. The crowd, fickle as ever, told him to go to Jesus. He asked Bartimaeus what did he want Jesus to do, and Bartimaeus quickly replied that he wanted his sight **before we come to Jesus we are spiritually blind and need to ask Him to open our spiritual eyes**

Bartimaeus' faith had healed him Jesus declared that it will be our faith in Jesus' death that will save us. Bartimaeus could see and followed Jesus. **Coming to faith in Jesus is only the beginning. We then need to follow Jesus and keep following until we go to be with Him.**

*Prayer.*

*Father, thank You that Jesus died so that we might have eternal life. Please help us to follow Jesus all the way through our lives, till we come home to You in Your kingdom.*

*Amen.*

**Day 20.**

**Mark chapter 11 verse 1 to 11. (Mark 11:1-11)**

**Page 934.**

**The ride of a lifetime.**

**Jesus came to Jerusalem as King. Mark 11:1-11.**

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem no one was left in any doubt that He was claiming to be King. He rode on a donkey, as the Jewish kings were instructed to do; Jesus fulfilled the prophesy in *Zechariah 9:9*, (page 876). He was greeted by the crowds with words like 'blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord'.

The day was a supernatural one. Jesus send His disciples to collect the colt, a young donkey, not been previously ridden. They borrowed the animal from its owner, the disciples threw their coats on the back of the animal and Jesus sat on him the crowd around Jesus shouted, waved branches and cloaks in front of Him

As they entered Jerusalem the people shouted asking for salvation, Hosanna, which means save us. Followed by 'blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'

*Psalm 118:25 & 26*, (page 566) when the Messiah from the line of David, came by...

Jesus entered as King but did not an earthly one. **He knew His purpose for this time was to be the suffering Messiah and to die for the sins of all people**, so that the way to eternal life and into the Kingdom of God would be open to us.

*Prayer.*

*Father, thank You that Jesus was willing to come and die in our place, even though He is the King.*

*Amen.*

**Day 21.**

**Mark chapter 11 verses 12 to 33. (Mark 11:12-33)**

**Page 935.**

**Trouble has begun.**

**Jesus cursed the fig tree and cleared the Temple courts. Mark 11:12-26.**

In Israel When a fig tree is in leaf there is a possibility of finding fruit early. Here Jesus went across to the tree and did not find any fruit. Jesus is always looking for fruit as this is the purpose of life we **are brought into His kingdom with the purpose of producing fruit.** Jesus spoke the word and when they returned the next day Peter commented on the withered tree right down to its roots.

When God spoke the word in **Genesis 1:3 - 26** (page 3) life came into being, when Jesus spoke the word over the fig tree it died. God's Word is always powerful **Jesus used this time to teach the disciples about the need for them to have faith in God.** Jesus always pointed people to faith in God and to ask in prayer believing that God hears and answers. Jesus reminded His disciples to forgive and not hold anything against anybody. Jesus Between the two days Jesus went to the Temple again but this time He turned against those who were trading with money in the temple... Jesus declared the Temple was a place of prayer Maybe the Christian church should learn that lesson today. The leaders in the Temple were afraid of Jesus' popularity and began to plot a way of killing Him began to look for a way to kill Him.

**Jesus' authority questioned. Mark 11:27 - 33.**

The question of authority in faith has, and still remains a thorny question. **Who gives anyone the right to speak of or for God.** Jesus, when questioned, again answered with a question. 'By what authority did John the Baptist do what he did, heavenly or human?' He asked. The leaders didn't dare answer human, because the general public believed John to be a prophet, and if they said Heavenly Jesus would have asked why they did not believe in John's teaching. When the leaders said that they did not know, Jesus declined to answer their question.

When we come to Jesus and follow Him, we need to know His instructions through listening to our spiritual leaders, but **we always need to be ready to do what Jesus is saying to us through the Bible which is the word of God.**

*Prayer.*

*Father, please help us to constantly produce the good fruit of the Holy Spirit, to believe in faith what we ask for in prayer, and to do all that You tell us to do.*

*Amen.*

**Day 22.**

**Mark chapter 12 verses 1 to 27. (Mark 12:1-27)**

**Page 935.**

**Stories and more teaching.**

**The parable of the tenants. Mark 12:1-12.**

Jesus often told stories to make a point, and more often than not the people concerned got the point! This story was about Israel's attitude to the people God sent to give His message. The people knew that the owner of the vineyard was God and Israel the vine. The Lord had left Israel to look after His land; when He sent His servants, the prophets, they beat and killed them. The Lord then decided to send His Son, the Messiah, and they killed Him too.

Jesus then took an Old Testament verse which was about the Messiah, *Psalm 118: 23* (page 566), and quoted it to the people. They knew that Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah, He was also the stone the leaders rejected, but He was would become the cornerstone in everything God was doing

The leaders knew Jesus had told this parable because of the way the prophets were treated in the past was the way they were treating Jesus now. They sought to arrest Jesus and get Him out of the way instead of repenting and turning to Jesus they were in fact fulfilling the parable just told. They were afraid of the crowd and therefore did not arrest Jesus there and then **but what do we do, do we listen to the people God sends and more importantly have we 'received', Jesus, the Son that God sent to be the Saviour of the world?**

***Prayer.***

***Father, thank You for sending Jesus, Your Son, to be the Saviour. We choose to turn away from doing our own thing, and give our lives to You so that we do what pleases you by following in all Your ways***

***Amen.***

**Day 23.**

**Mark chapter 12 verses 28 to 44. (Mark12:13-17)**

**Page 936.**

**Questions, questions, questions!!**

**Paying the Imperial tax to Caesar. Mark 12:13-17.**

**From this point on the leaders tried to trap Jesus; they sent some men to ask Him questions they believed He could not answer without causing offense to someone...**

The first question was should they pay tax to Caesar? If Jesus said yes, then the people of Israel would be furious as the Romans who controlled the land were hated. If Jesus said no, the Romans would have executed Him. Jesus requested for a coin and asked whose head was on it. They replied Caesar's, Jesus told them to give to Caesar what was his and to God what is His

**Marriage at the resurrection. Mark 12:18-27.**

The Sadducees were a religious group that did not believe in the supernatural, and they brought this improbable story about a lady who had been married seven times after each husband died. Their question was whose wife she would be at the resurrection. Jesus taught that at resurrection there will be no marriage, He then goes on to say that the Lord revealed Himself to Moses as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Jesus declared that God is the God of the living and not the dead.

**The greatest commandment. Mark 12:28-34.**

This man appeared to be genuine, he asked Jesus which is the greatest commandment. Jesus replied with the great statement of Israel, declared that the Lord is one, and commanded complete devotion to Him, He then summed up the rest of the commandments with the phrase 'love your neighbour as yourself'.

The man completed the conversation with the remarkable statement that loving God and others is more important than sacrifices, the religious duty of the day. Jesus commended him on his understanding. **We would do well to realise that loving God and others is more important than all the religious duty we so often get tied up with.** No one else dared ask any more questions.

**Whose son is the Messiah? Mark 12:35-37.**

Now Jesus started asking the questions. His questions pointed to the truth about the Messiah, and the fact that the He is greater than King David, even though the He is

said to be as David's Son.

**Warning against the Teachers of the Law. Mark 12:38-40.**

Jesus condemned the hypocrites, particularly the religious ones.

**The widow's offering. Mark 12:42-44.**

Jesus pointed out that giving from abundance with great pomp and ceremony is not praised by God. This lady gave out of what she had to live on whilst those making a show gave out of what they could live without. Another lesson for us to learn. **Don't judge by appearance, but see as God sees.**

*Prayer.*

*Father, thank you that You see all things and know the motives of our hearts, not just the actions of our hands.*

*Amen.*

**Day 24.**

**Mark chapter 13 verses 1 to 13. (Mark13:1-13)**

**Page 937.**

**The end is nigh.**

**The destruction of the Temple and signs of the end times. Mark 13:1-13.**

While sitting on the Mount of Olives Jesus spoke of the future to His disciples. He predicted the destruction of the Temple, which happened thirty seven years later. He then spoke of the signs of His second coming to earth which are:-

- v6. People will claim to be the Christ, Messiah, Anointed One.
- v7. There will be wars and rumours of more wars.
- v8. Nations will rise against nations and ethnic uprising within nations.
- v8. There will be a rise in earthquakes and famines, natural disasters.
- v9. There will be a rise in persecution of Jesus' followers.
- v10. The good news about Jesus will be preached everywhere in the world.
- v11. When arrested Jesus' followers will be guided by the Holy Spirit what to say
- v12. Families will betray Christians within their families to the authorities.
- v12. There will be rebellion within families.
- v13. People will hate you because you are a follower of Jesus.

This is not an encouraging list for recruitment but it is the truth. We should be willing to follow Jesus whatever the circumstances. Jesus encouraged His disciples to stay with the faith even when things and we have the same encouragement today

***Prayer.***

***Father, please help us to stay firm in our Christian faith, even things are difficult for us as Christians, and we pray for other Christians in other parts of the world who are already suffering and dying because they are followers of Jesus.***

***Amen.***

**Day 25.**

**Mark chapter 13 verses 14 to 37. (Mark 13:14-37)**

**Page 937**

**Further warnings and teachings about Jesus' return.**

**The destruction of the Temple and signs of the end times. Mark 13:14-31.**

Jesus warned the disciples to watch for someone who will come and defile the Jewish Temple. At present there is no Temple, but many people believe it will be rebuilt. Jesus said when this happens, run and hide...

Jesus said the Lord will cut those days short or there will be much bloodshed and no one would survive if He didn't. The disciples are not to believe everyone who says that Jesus has returned and is in hiding.

He made it clear that some impostors will be able to perform 'signs and wonders' suggesting that are working for Jesus; we are to be careful and on our guard, after this there will be strange signs in the sky. The sun will become dark, the moon and stars will be invisible, and this will shake the natural order of things.

When all these signs have happened; Jesus will come and take His people to be with Him. Jesus' last sign will be the development of the nation of Israel and when this happens the time is very close. Jesus closed this time of teaching by declaring that His words coming to pass is more sure than that of heaven and earth remaining here.

**The day and hour is unknown. Mark 13:32-37.**

Jesus made it very plain that the day and time is not known and cannot be calculated. Many people have tried over the years, but their estimates have proved wrong. **Jesus said that rather than spend time working out exactly when He is coming back, get on with living for Him day by day.** He did not even hint about when He will return and He will return! We are to be constantly ready and watching for Him.

***Prayer.***

***Father, help us to be ready for when Jesus comes. Let us do the things you want and always looking for You***

***Amen.***

**Day 26.**

**Mark chapter 14 verses 1 to 31. (Mark 14:1-31)**

**Page 938.**

**Jesus' end is near.**

**Jesus anointed at Bethany. Mark 14:1-11.**

The religious leaders had not given up hope of arresting and killing Jesus. Their plans were becoming a reality. At the time Jesus was staying at Bethany, the outskirts of Jerusalem. A lady arrived with an expensive jar of ointment and poured it over Him. This caused immediate argument some said it was a waste and that the ointment could have been sold and the money given to the poor.

Jesus stopped their haranguing and said that this deed was done as a foretelling of what was going to happen to Him, it was as if this lady was anointing His body ready for burial. **Jesus is not against Christians helping the poor, but He saw the love and devotion in which she had done this deed, and Jesus commended her for her action.** He said that due to this lady's love for Him, in her action she would never be forgotten.

Judas Iscariot went to the main religious leaders and offered to betray Jesus. The leaders promised Judas money if he caught Jesus away from the crowds.

**The last supper. Mark 14:12 - 26.**

It was time for the customary Passover feast; Jesus with His disciples were ready to share this meal together. He sent two of the disciples to find the place where they would meet.

When the time came, Jesus met with the disciples; He began by saying that one of the disciples would betray Him. They could not believe this, and asked Him whether He meant them. Jesus said it would be the one He offered a special gift of friendship, then warns them of the consequence for the one who would betray Him. He then went on to warn the betrayer.

As the meal continued, **Jesus took the familiar ceremony and added something of Himself to it. He took the bread and declared that it would represent His body; He took a cup of wine and said that the wine would represent His blood.** Jesus and the disciples then sung the Psalms of praise before going out to the Mount of Olives.

**Jesus predicted Peter's denial. Mark 14:27 - 31.**

Jesus warned His disciples that they would all leave Him; Peter could not face this and protested that that he would stand by Jesus. Jesus told Peter that before the rooster crowed twice Peter would have said three times that he did not know Jesus. All the disciples said that they would stand with Jesus.

***Prayer.***

***Father, thank you that Jesus gave us a way to remember and that He died for us.***

***Amen.***

**Day 27.**

**Mark chapter 14 verses 32 to 72. (Mark 14:32-72)**

**Page 939**

**The long night.**

**Gethsemane. Mark 14:32-42.**

These are some of the darkest times in the lives of both Jesus and His disciples. They went together to Gethsemane and Jesus asked them to pray for Him. He went alone to pray to His Father, and bring Himself to the place where He was willing to do what He knew He had to do. This was not an easy time for Jesus. He did not want to go to the cross, yet He wanted to do His Father's will. The disciples fell asleep; Jesus prayed the same prayer three times without any support from His followers. **There may be times in our lives as Christians when we have to face some things that we would rather not do, Jesus has been there, and will help us if we choose to do Father's will.**

**Jesus arrested. Mark 14:43-51.**

Judas with a band of soldiers approached, Jesus with a greeting of friendship. One of Jesus' disciples drew a sword and cut the High Priest's servant's ear then all His disciples run away. That which Jesus had predicted came true. One young man was in such a hurry to get away he ran naked through the garden.

**Jesus before the Sanhedrin. Mark 14:52-65.**

This is one of the most dishonest trials in history. The Jewish leaders did not follow their own rules in trying Jesus. They met at night when it was illegal to hold a trial. The witnesses did not agree with evidence. Jesus did not answer the accusations against Himself. They finally convicted Him on a charge of blasphemy which was only true if He was not God the Son as He claimed to be, and no one proved that He was not. This travesty of justice was followed by physical abuse, which included spitting at Him, mocking and finally being beaten by the guards. This trial was a mockery of justice by anybody's standards, least of all by a group of men claiming repent God's judges on earth.

**Peter disowned Jesus. Mark 14:66-72.**

Peter stood outside the hall, in the courtyard where the trial was taking place. A servant girl accused him of being with Jesus and Peter denied it; she told others too that he was with Jesus, and again Peter denied it. Finally another group recognised he's accent and said he must be one of Jesus' followers. Peter denied it with strong language, and then the rooster crowed for the second time. Peter reaction was to weep. **There are times when we let Jesus down, and none of us is exempt from this, but what is our reaction. Do we defend our actions or do we, like Peter, break down and weep as we see our wrong.**

*Prayer.*

*Father, thank You for all that Jesus was willing to go through for us, please help us to be willing to stand with Him, and at times when we do let You down, please help us to be truly sorry for what we have said or done, and be willing to turn away from the wrong and say and do what is right.*

*Amen.*

**Day 28.**

**Mark chapter 15 verses 1 to 15. (Mark 15:1-15)**

**Page 940.**

**The long day.**

**Jesus before Pilate. Mark 15:1-15.**

The trial continued. The Jews knew they did not have the authority to execute Jesus so they took Him to Pilate, the Roman Governor. This was not a trial, but sentencing. Pilate tried to get Jesus to speak, but He refused to answer.

Pilate got round the 'problem' by offering a substitute prisoner, because he knew the true reason why the Jewish leaders brought Jesus to him; envy. **How difficult it is for us to know our true motives in any situation? How we need Jesus to show us the truth about ourselves.**

Pilate offered to release either Jesus or Barabbas, the crowd wanted Barabbas. Pilate made no decisions but asked the crowd what should be done with Jesus. They wanted Him crucified. **How often do we try to escape the decisions we need to make?**

Pilate was a politician and a people pleaser and so he had Jesus flogged then crucified. We are often called to make all sorts of decisions, some of which can and do change our lives. But the most vital decision we are all called to make is, **'WHAT WILL WE DO WITH JESUS?'** This not only affects our lives here on earth, but our eternal destiny as well. When we die and stand before God, He does not want to know how good or bad we have been but what has been our attitude towards Jesus. The answer to that question will affect our eternal destiny; the choice has to be made here not then

**What will you do with Jesus?**

If you have never asked Jesus to forgive your sins and to come and take control of your life, this is a sample of a prayer you could pray.

**Prayer.**

***Lord Jesus Christ.***

***I know I have chosen to live my life my own way, and have ignored You, and Your way of living. I am sorry for what I have done wrong, and for not doing the good things I should have done. Thank You for dying for me on the cross. I now choose to turn away from living my life my way, and I ask You to come into my life and take control of it. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit so that I can live my life the way You want.***

**Day 29.**

**Mark chapter 15 verses 16 to 47. (Mark 15:16-47)**

**Page 941.**

**One of the most important days in the history of the world.**

**The soldiers mocked Jesus. Mark15:16-20.**

The Roman soldiers were known for their cruelty, and their treatment of Jesus was no exception. They mocked Him using a purple robe and a crown of thorns, hit and spat, and finally took Him to be crucified.

**The crucifixion of Jesus. (Mark15:21-32.**

After being beaten and tortured, Jesus was too weak to carry His own cross, and Simon from Cyrene was made to carry it up the hill, Golgotha. Mark's account of the crucifixion is very brief and to the point. One of the most important events in the history of the world, Mark summed up in four words.

**And they crucified Him.**

The Jewish leaders were on the scene to mock and scorn the Man they wanted destroyed. They taunted Jesus like a pack of wolves around a helpless victim. Like all cowards, they suddenly became brave and boastful when they thought they had their victim in the place of no return.

**The death of Jesus. Mark15:33-41.**

Mark recorded the long three hours, of eerie darkness, followed by Jesus' cry of 'My God, My God why have you forsaken me?' Finally Jesus died; the main curtain in the Temple, separating the dwelling place of God from man, is torn in two from top to bottom, signifying that the way to God for man is now open. The centurion exclaimed that Jesus was the Son of God; the women, who tended to Jesus', needs while He was alive, could only stand around and watch.

**The burial of Jesus. Mar15:42-47.**

Joseph of Arimathea arrived and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised that Jesus is already dead. Crucifixion was not intended to be a quick death, but long and prolonged; the bodies could be dying for days on the cross. When Pilate is assured that Jesus is dead, he released the body to Joseph who took it, laid it in a rock tomb and rolled a stone over the entrance.

***Prayer.***

***Father; thank You that Jesus was willing to suffer and die for us.***

***Amen.***

**Day 30.**

**Mark chapter 16 verses 1 to 20. (Mark 16:1-20).**

**Page 941.**

**HE'S ALIVE!**

**Jesus has risen. Mark 16:1-8.**

The next day after Jesus' death was the Sabbath and no work could be done. Early Sunday morning the women who had cared for Jesus, set off to the tomb to give His body a decent burial. They were worried about moving the stone, but like a lot of our worries, it was already dealt with; the large stone had rolled away.

They went into the tomb and found a young man dressed in white inside the tomb. This messenger told them that **Jesus is Alive.**

**If the resurrection is not true we have no Christian faith; Jesus and all He taught and did are lying in the tomb with Him.** Paul in *1 Corinthians 15:12-14 (page 1063)* clearly stated that if Jesus has not been raised from the dead that any Christian preaching including our faith is useless.

Some lawyers seeking to disprove Christianity have looked at the evidence for the resurrection, and have come to faith in Jesus. **Our faith is not based solely on a 'leap of faith', but also on the facts of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.** One of the greatest proofs that Jesus is alive is that so many of His disciples went on to die horrendous deaths declaring that they had seen the risen Jesus. **Some may dare to live for a lie, but hardly anyone will die for a lie.**

## **The work goes on. Mark 16:9-20.**

The first part of this section spoke of those who saw the risen Jesus.

1. Mary Magdalene, a prostitute; Jesus cast out seven devils from her. Hardly the person you pick if the story was fiction!!
2. Two people walking along the road.
3. Finally the eleven disciples, that Jesus rebuked because they did not believe the others who claimed that He was alive.

The second section is Jesus' commands to His disciples.

1. Go and preach the gospel to everyone in the world.
2. Baptise those who believe.
3. Expel demons in Jesus' name.
4. Speak in tongues.
5. There will be protection for those who go in Jesus' name.
6. Lay hands on the sick and they will get well.

The final section of Mark's gospel is of Jesus' return to heaven, and His position at the right hand of God. The disciples obeyed His command and He kept His promise confirming their words with signs and miracles **if we are Jesus' disciples, the words we have just read in this part of Mark's gospel can be true for us too. As we go out and preach God's word, He will do many wonderful signs to prove He is who He says that He is.**

### *Prayer.*

*Father, thank You for all that Jesus has done for us, and help us, through the power of Your Holy Spirit, to do the things that You want us to do, so that Your kingdom may come and Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Amen.*







*He has showed you, O man,  
what is good And what does the  
LORD require of you?*



*To act justly and to love mercy and  
to walk humbly with your God.  
Micah 6:8*

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