

# Daily Worship Notes

October 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026



# The Gospel of Mark

# **This week, please:**

## **Pray for;**

Mon - Angela, Asher, Myah, Charlotte & Spencer Newman

Tues - Michael Omelon

Wed - Janelle Oosterhoff

Thur - Joel Persaud

Frid - Colin & Corine, Ella, Rose, Lucy, Mabel, Hendrik & Beatrice Postma

## **Parents help your children to learn;**

### **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

*Question 78:*

What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?

*Answer:*

The ninth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own, or our neighbor's, good name.

*Scripture Proofs:*

Leviticus 19:16; Psalm 15:3; Proverbs 6:16-19; Luke 3:14.

## **Check out these Bible-by-chapter questions;**

*Question:* When is a bull offered for a sin offering?

*Answer:* Leviticus 4:2-3, 13-14

*Question:* When is a male goat offered for a sin offering?

*Answer:* Leviticus 4:22-23

*Question:* When is a female goat offered for a sin offering?

*Answer:* Leviticus 4:27-28

*Question:* When is a female lamb offered for a sin offering?

*Answer:* Leviticus 4:32-33

*Please pray and ask the Holy Spirit for help as you study Mark this week.  
These notes are written by our minister, Rev. Dr. Andrew Quigley.*



## **Monday – Mark 13:1-8 - The danger of deception by false Messiahs.**

It's still Tuesday on the day of the week when Christ will be crucified on Friday. Up to this point, Jesus left for Jerusalem (Mark 10:32), then entered Jerusalem (Mark 11:1); now, at the start of this chapter, he leaves the Temple for the last time. At this point, we have crossed a significant line in Jesus' life.

As he walks out of the temple for the last time, one of his disciples, unaware of what has just unfolded, remarks on the beauty of the temple's stones and structure. He isn't alone; Matthew says all the disciples came to Jesus (Matthew 24:1), and Luke says some of them spoke (Luke 21:5). This innocent comment opens the door for Jesus to speak about what is coming down the road. Not about himself, but for the Temple. As he sits on the Mount of Olives opposite the Temple, Jesus privately warns the four disciples who ask him a question. (It's interesting that Andrew is present here along with Peter, James, and John, the three disciples who normally formed the inner circle and were often set apart with Jesus.) They ask when the Temple will be destroyed, what sign will accompany his return and the end of the age, and about impending spiritual dangers.

- The danger of deception by false Messiahs, verses 5,6.
- The danger of the distraction of world turmoil, verses 7,8
- The danger of being engulfed by the unexpected rage of persecution against the faith, verses 9ff.

### *The danger of false Messiahs*

Jesus says many will come in his name, seeking to misuse and abuse it for evil purposes. They will go as far in this abuse as to solemnly declare that they are Jesus himself and are fulfilling the prophecies of Jesus. The sad reality is that many will be caught up in this deception and will yield to and follow the lying delusions presented as truth. And of course, this is true to this day. Charlatans walk the earth proclaiming themselves the Messiah, and many follow them in the vain hope of receiving some form of higher blessing. There is one true living Christ, and we must be careful to follow him and him alone, as he has been revealed in the unchanging Word of God.

### **Questions:**

- Q1. What does Jesus do for the last time in Mark 13?
- Q2. Who asks Jesus a question, and what is it?
- Q3. What three dangers does Jesus warn them of?

**Memory Verse:** "This book of the law will not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night," Joshua 1:8a



## **Tuesday – Mark 13:3-13 - The danger of the distraction of world turmoil.**

The second danger Jesus warns Peter, James, John and Andrew about is world turmoil. Wars will rage as nations and kingdoms rise up against each other to seek to assert authority and gain control. And ever so it has been the case. No matter how many accords and treaties are signed stating that the signatories will recognize and accept the right of sovereign nations to rule free and unfettered from another nation's influence, man, kingdoms, and nations cannot and will not live in peace. Why not? Because of the demonic forces at work in the world, constantly striving to destroy the image of God in man by sowing destruction and death. That is why we should not be alarmed or troubled when we hear about endless wars; for as Jesus says, they are all part of the onset of the birth pains leading up to the final establishment of God's rule. (Paul says the same thing in Romans 8:22, when he writes of the inward groaning we experience while waiting for the final consummation of God's work.)

In addition to war and rumours of war, the earth shakes with earthquakes, as the created order, held in bondage to and infected by sin, recoils because of its anger and venom, and groans in anticipation of being set free by God. And one of the fruits or consequences of this will be famine, a want of food in certain parts of the world. Inexplicable, in one sense, because of man's ability to produce food on the earth, yet still an ever-present reality that will never be fully eradicated, because it, too, is a bitter pang that must be experienced and endured.

The next danger Jesus reveals on the Mount of Olives is that of being engulfed by the unexpected rage of persecution against the faith. This wasn't entirely new to these men; Jesus confronted them with the reality they would face when he first called and ordained them (see Matthew 10:16-23). From the outset, the disciples knew they would face brutal persecution for following Jesus. The mention of being delivered to councils and synagogues must have struck early believers to the core, given Saul of Tarsus's brutal actions. *We are truly blessed not to face such persecution, but many do because of their love for the Lord, and we should be mindful of that.*

### **Questions:**

Q1. What is the second danger which Jesus informs the disciples of?

Q2. What does the earth experience?

Q3. The RP Church has a history of experiencing persecution; where did it take place?

**Memory Verse:** "This book of the law will not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night," Joshua 1:8a



### **Wednesday - Mark 13:9-13 – Suffering: why?**

As we saw yesterday, Jesus did not hesitate to confront his disciples about the persecution that awaited them because of their faith in him. He did so when they began following him, and here, during the last week of his life on earth, he reminds them that they cannot avoid this reality. They will be brought before two types of courts: religious judicial tribunals and councils, and the pagan courts.

There is absolute certainty about this. Jesus never sought to hide or soften what these men and others who followed him would experience. They would, as followers of Christ (and still do today), face accusations, denunciations, imprisonment, verdicts of guilt, punishments that will include lashes, beating with rods, and ultimately, for many, execution. (See Acts 4, 22:19, 26:11, 2 Corinthians 11:24.)

The reason for this? For the sake of Christ, verse 9. Whatever they suffered, whatever was suffered in 16th-century Scotland, whatever saints around the world are suffering today, is suffered for Christ. In Wigton churchyard in Southwest Scotland, a grave inscription, not unique in Scotland for the period, records an event that took place on May 11, 1685. It reads:

“Let earth and stone still witness bear,  
There lies a virgin-martyr here.  
Murdered for owning Christ supreme,  
Head of His church and no more crime.  
But not abjuring Presbytery,  
And he not owning Prelacy.  
They are condemned by unjust law;  
Of heaven nor hell, they do not in awe,  
Within the sea, tied to a stake.  
She suffered for Christ Jesus' sake.  
The actors of this cruel crime,  
Were Lagg, Stachan, Windram, and Grahame,  
Neither young years nor yet old age,  
Could stop the fury of their rage.”

*Food for thought!*

### **Questions:**

- Q1. What types of courts did Jesus say the disciple would stand before?
- Q2. What did Jesus say they would experience?
- Q3. For whose sake did Jesus say they would suffer?

**Memory Verse:** “This book of the law will not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night,” Joshua 1:8a



## **Thursday – Mark 13:9-13 – Suffering to bear witness to Christ.**

The suffering the disciples and tens of thousands have experienced over the next two millennia has been for the sake of Christ. That is what Jesus tells these men. It is he who sent these men; it is he whom they speak of and represent; it is his royal rule and Kingdom that they proclaim. They will suffer for him.

And why is this necessary? Why is the pain and suffering and death of persecution necessary? To bear witness to the persecutors that Christ is not a mere teacher, a moralist, or a good man worthy of being followed and honoured; he is THE Saviour of His elect people. He is their LORD. He is THE King of all Kings.

As men and women stand before judicial courts, both religious and civil, they speak with integrity, clarity, and conciseness of their love for this man, Jesus Christ, as they proclaim his saving work in their lives and bear testimony that they are alive in him. As they show by their words and actions that they are no longer held in the evil and tyrannous bondage of Satan and sin, but are living and breathing with a vitality for life. As they proclaim themselves to be a new creature in Christ, experiencing true joy and delight in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, knowing the peace of God that passes all human understanding amid the trials of life, and knowing that nothing - not tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, sword - can separate them from the love of Christ; but rather that in all these things they are more than conquerors through him who loves them. Showing that they are absolutely convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate them from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Then the world will see and know who Christ is. Will they bend the knee and believe that he is? Some might, but the point is that they will know and have no excuse.

Am I preaching? Yes, I am, but who can't read and think about these things without preaching? Where in the world will people with calm assuredness face their physical deaths with quiet determination to proclaim the love of anyone? Where Christ is known and loved for who he is and what he has done for those whom he loves. *This is the good news of the gospel; may God be merciful to us and give us a desire to share it in good times, before persecution comes.*

### **Question:**

Q. Why do followers of Christ suffer persecution?

**Memory Verse:** "This book of the law will not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night," Joshua 1:8a



## **Friday – Mark 13:9-13 – We are to love those who hate us, but we must endure.**

It's beautiful how Jesus tells these men to face the reality of persecution and suffering. The key is that they will not be alone. As emotions surge when they are arrested and convicted, they must remember one thing: they are not to be anxious or spend a moment worrying about what they will say. They must not be gripped by fear of what they might say or do. Mark uses a verb here that means they must stop an action that has begun. He is saying they probably won't be able to avoid this, but when they do become anxious, they must speak to themselves, take charge of their thoughts, and hold fast to the fact they will be given words to speak in the moment. Words from the Holy Spirit himself. Words that will speak to the need of the hour better than if they had spent weeks mulling it over, in consultation with others, on what to say in anticipation of the hour arising. And not just a smattering of occasional words, intermittently dispersed through what they are saying, but every word they will need will be given to them by the Holy Spirit. This is so inevitable that Jesus' command is not even to think about it. His message is simple and clear - when such occasions arise, their complete and utter dependence is to be and shall be, by God's grace, wholly upon God. What a promise in the form of a command!

And how this promise, given as a command, is needed. Because the levels of hatred that these men and all subsequent believers will experience are horrendous. And they are horrendous because of the ones who will turn the believers over to the authorities. It won't be distant acquaintances or neighbours, not even close friends, but members of one's family. Brother will deliver brother to death; a father his child; children will rise against their parents and have them put to death. These are astonishing words. We all have a desperate desire to see our loved ones come to Christ, those nearest and dearest to us, our own flesh and blood, and the promise of God's covenant is truly wonderful; but there is a reality which we cannot ignore, and it's that there are those close to us who will hate us for one reason and one reason alone: they hate Christ, and they hate our love for Christ. *That doesn't mean we should hate them. No, we are to stand before them and, with gentle care, bear witness to Christ. We are to love them and pray for God's saving work in their lives, but let's not be naive about the reality.*

### **Questions:**

Q1. Who does Jesus say will be with those who face persecution?

Q2. How will the Holy Spirit give help?

Q3. How must we respond to those whom we love who hate us because of Christ?

**Memory Verse:** "This book of the law will not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night," Joshua 1:8a

# Sing praise to God

<https://newcreationrpc.org/psalms>

## Psalm 71C

10. I'll come to tell the mighty deeds  
That God the LORD has done;  
And I'll declare Your righteousness,  
I'll speak of Yours alone.  
O God, I have been taught by You  
From early days of youth;  
And all the wonders You have done  
I still declare as truth.

11. And even when I'm old and gray,  
O God, forsake me not,  
Until Your strength and pow'r I have  
Each generation taught.  
For God, Your righteousness extends  
Beyond the heights we view;  
And You have done such wondrous things,  
O God, who is like You?

12. Though in the past You made me see  
Much trouble and distress,  
You will revive and raise me up  
From earth's enclosing depths.  
Increase my honor, turn again  
To give me peace and rest.  
My God, with harps I'll praise and sing  
About Your faithfulness.

13. O Holy One of Israel,  
The harp I will employ;  
Redeemed by You, I'll sing Your praise,  
Will shout Your praise with joy.  
My tongue will also speak about  
Your justice all day long;  
For they are humbled and ashamed  
Who seek to do me wrong.