

ENCOUNTER.

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of Mark

Lesson Ten: Encounter His Victory

Mark 15-16

We have spent the last three weeks studying the final week of Jesus' earthly life. So many significant events took place. Let's do a quick review from the Garden to the trials, and then on to the crucifixion and resurrection.

I. Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-42)

What does it mean when we say, the passion of Christ? Passion is about what you will endure and die for. It is a suffering love. That is your passion. I recently heard John Mark Comer make this statement on Carey Nieuwhof's podcast:

The early Christians were not trying to revive a nominal Christian culture. Christian maturity was coming to a place of peace and tranquility. Totally free of the world. Unflappable. It is Jesus asleep in the boat. Jesus in the Garden saying "not My will but Thine be done."

That doesn't mean you won't wrestle as Jesus did in Gethsemane. Gethsemane means "olive press." The truth is, we may experience multiple Gethsemane moments in this life. Moments that seem to crush us. Jesus asked that the cup be taken from Him. But after each of the three requests, He said, "Yet not what I will, but what You will" (Mark 14:36).

Paul experienced His own wrestling with the Lord. Three times He asked that his thorn in the flesh be removed (2 Corinthians 12). The Lord did not grant his request, but instead said:

"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I delight in weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

Our weaknesses cause us to cling to Christ. They push us to abandon and dependence. That is when His Spirit takes over.

II. Peter's denial (Mark 14:66-72)

- A. Peter followed Jesus at a distance.
- B. Peter warmed himself at the world's fire.

A Word of Warning: When we follow Christ at a distance and warm ourselves at the world's fire, we too will deny Him.

III. Trials (Mark 14:53-15:21)

Caiaphas, Sanhedrin, Pilate, Herod, Pilate

IV. Crucifixion (Mark 15:22-47)

Hung between two thieves. These thieves represent all of mankind.

V. Resurrection (Mark 16)

The women
Mary Magdalene

We are to "live the resurrection." To be filled with God's Spirit and live this life dependent upon Him. To live as Christ lived. If you are a Christian, you have died to your old life and been raised up to a new life in Christ. That is what your baptism by immersion depicts. It is a beautiful picture of what happens when you believe.

So how do we live this resurrection life?

We experience spiritual formation by resurrection.

We too will have our olive press moments. The only way to honor Christ is to cling to Him, walking closely with Jesus. We cannot follow Him at a distance and not deny Him. As we trust Him, we can do as Jesus did – make our request but surrender by saying, "nevertheless not my will but Yours be done." It is the death in the surrender that leads to resurrection life.

The day we got the call that the cancer had gone to Steve’s brain, after we hung up from the call, Steve’s first words were, “Faith is not gritting your teeth, it is surrender and trust.” His faith became sight three weeks later, to the day.

As we read in our homework this week, “How dark can the darkness really be when you walk into it accompanied by the Light of the World?”

I am experiencing “the Light of the World” in my current season of darkness. We can survive anything if we have Jesus. We cannot only survive but thrive in the midst because He wastes nothing. Suffering conforms us to Christ. It is not comfortable, but the Lord does not prioritize our comfort but our conformity.

Because of the Resurrection we have hope and the assurance that every tear will be wiped from our eyes. We know this, because Jesus is coming back!

Andrew Peterson’s “He Came Back”
From his Resurrection Letters Vol. II project.

He came back.

After that brutal Friday, and that long, quiet Saturday, He came back. And that one intake of breath in the tomb changes everything. It changes the very reason I drew breath today and the way I move about in this world because I believe He’s coming back again. The world has gone on for more than two millennia since Jesus’ feet tread the earth He made. What would they have said back then if someone had told them that some two thousand years later, we’d still be waiting? They would’ve thought back to that long Saturday and said, “Two thousand years will seem like a breath to you when you finally lay your crown at His feet. We don’t even remember what we were doing on that Saturday, but let me tell you about Sunday morning. Now that was something.”

These many years of waiting will only be a sentence in the story. This long day will come to an end, and I believe it will end in glory, when we will shine like suns and stride the green hills with those we love and the One who loves. We will look with our new eyes and speak with our new tongues and turn to each other and say, “Do you remember the waiting? The long years, the bitter pain, the gnawing doubt, the relentless ache?” And like Mary at the tomb, we will say; “I remember only the light, and the voice calling my name, and the overwhelming joy that the waiting was finally over.”

The stone will be rolled away for each of us.

May we wait with faithful hearts.