

Adult Bible Study: Mark 14–16

Theme: The Suffering Servant and the Cost of Discipleship

The Anointing at Bethany (Mark 14:1-11)

Greek Insight

The woman "anointed" Jesus.

The Greek word **ἀλείφω (aleiphō)** means "to anoint or apply oil." In the ancient world it could signify honor, preparation, healing, or burial.

Jesus says she has anointed Him beforehand for burial (14:8).

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think some people viewed the woman's act as wasteful?
2. How does Jesus redefine what true worship looks like?
3. How is extravagant devotion viewed in today's culture?
4. What contrasts do you see between the woman and Judas?

Cross References

- 2 Samuel 24:24
- John 12:1-8
- Romans 12:1

PART 2: The Last Supper (Mark 14:12-31)

Greek Insight

Jesus says:

"This is my blood of the covenant."

The word **διαθήκη (diathēkē)** means covenant, testament, or binding agreement.

This points directly back to:

- Exodus 24:8
- Jeremiah 31:31-34

Jesus is inaugurating the New Covenant.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it significant that Jesus institutes Communion during Passover?
2. What does the New Covenant accomplish that the old covenant could not?
3. How does Communion shape our identity as God's people?
4. Why do the disciples struggle to believe Jesus' prediction about their failure?

Cross References

- Exodus 12
- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

PART 3: Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-52)

Greek Insight

Jesus prays:

"Abba, Father"

Ἀββᾶ (Abba) is an Aramaic term expressing intimacy and trust.

Jesus also says:

"Not what I will, but what You will."

The word **θέλημα (thelēma)** means will, desire, purpose.

Discussion Questions

1. What emotions do you see Jesus experiencing?
2. Why is Jesus' humanity important for our faith?
3. What does Gethsemane teach about prayer?
4. How do we submit our will to God's will?

Cross References

- Hebrews 5:7-9
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Luke 22:39-46

PART 4: Peter's Denial and Jesus' Trial (Mark 14:53–15:20)

Greek Insight

Peter "denied" Jesus.

ἀρνέομαι (arneomai) means to reject, refuse, or disown.

Jesus remains silent before His accusers.

This fulfills:

- Isaiah 53:7

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Peter fail despite his earlier confidence?
2. How can fear weaken discipleship?
3. What stands out about Jesus' silence?
4. How does Jesus display strength differently than worldly leaders?
5. What hope does Peter's restoration later provide?

Cross References

- Isaiah 53
- Luke 22:54-62
- John 21:15-19

PART 5: The Crucifixion (Mark 15:21-47)

Greek Insight

Jesus cries:

"My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?"

This quotation comes directly from Psalm 22.

The centurion declares:

"Truly this man was the Son of God."

The word **υἱός (huios)** means son but also carries royal and messianic significance.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is Psalm 22 important for understanding the crucifixion?
2. What does the tearing of the temple curtain signify?
3. Why is the centurion's confession so remarkable?
4. How does the cross reveal both God's justice and mercy?
5. What does discipleship look like in light of the cross?

Cross References

- Psalm 22
- Isaiah 53
- Hebrews 10:19-22

MARK 16

Theme: The Resurrection and the Mission of God's People

The Empty Tomb (Mark 16:1-8)

Greek Insight

The angel says:

"He has risen."

ἠγέρθη (ēgerthē) is passive voice, literally:

"He was raised."

This emphasizes God's action in vindicating Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. Why were the women expecting to find a dead body?
2. What evidence does Mark provide for the resurrection?
3. Why is it significant that women are the first witnesses?
4. What emotions do the women experience?
5. Why does the resurrection change everything?

Cross References

- Psalm 16:10
- Acts 2:24-32
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

PART 2: Fear and Faith

Greek Insight

Mark 16:8 says they were afraid.

The word **φόβος (phobos)** can mean terror, awe, reverence, or overwhelming amazement.

Often in Scripture, encountering God's power produces holy fear.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between fear and unbelief?
2. Why do people struggle to believe the resurrection today?
3. How does resurrection hope affect suffering?
4. What fears keep believers from sharing their faith?

5. How can we move from fear to faithful obedience?

Cross References

- Matthew 28:1-10
- Luke 24
- John 20

PART 3: The Resurrection and the Gospel**Greek Insight**

The angel tells the women:

"Go, tell His disciples and Peter." Peter is specifically named. This is a powerful picture of grace and restoration.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Peter is mentioned by name?
2. What does this reveal about God's mercy?
3. How does the resurrection reverse the failures of Mark 14?
4. What hope does the resurrection offer those who have failed God?
5. How can the church embody resurrection hope?

Cross References

- John 21:15-19
- Romans 8:1
- 2 Corinthians 5:17