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# Devotional for Lent 5

## Reading through Mark

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During the season of Lent (14th February to 21st March 2018) you are invited to read the Gospel of Mark.

The various Gospel sections each week will be used as a springboard for the worship themes on Sundays.

I hope you will use the devotional to prepare for worship.

Also, there will be opportunities through each week for discussion of the Gospel.

Speak with Ian to register your interest in participating and look for details of when and where discussions are taking place.

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## Lent 2018 : Week 5

Read through the Gospel of Mark, chapters 13-14  
*"The Last Supper and the Passion (struggle) begins"*

Here are some questions to consider :

***What is different in chapters 13- 14 from all that has gone before in Mark's gospel ?***

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***Which stories stand out for you? Please take note of why:***

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The anticipated destruction of the Temple was caused for Jesus to challenge the disciples to stay awake, be alert and watch. Great events were coming, terrifying times of transition and change ahead of them.

***Describe the standards and attitudes of the world today, the "Present Age"?  
In what ways can the church remain faithful to Christ and still address these challenges?***

***What are particular issues stretch or trouble your belief in God today?***

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Paint a word picture of the moments Jesus spent Simon the Leper's house.

**What's going on in the central scene?**

**What's happening alongside and at the same time as Jesus is anointed?**

Ponder the scene and be present there.

**What's going on inside you?**

**How do you feel? What's your attitude in response to what you see?**

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Describe a significant moment in your life which was marked by a significant meal.

**Why is it you remember it in this way?**

**How did the event impress itself upon your memory?**

**How does remembering it make you feel?**

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Sorrow hung over the table in “the Last Supper”.

**How does the meal itself transcend the disputes, doubts and the failures of the disciples to become a celebration of life achieved from death?**

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Enter the garden with Jesus and his closest disciples.

**How does it feel to see a strong man cry?**

Seeing Jesus struggle in prayer with his “Abba” Father - no longer planning, directing, teaching guiding...

**What does it mean for the church to live in the middle of this scene as Jesus loses control?**

**Now that Jesus is falling, how far can we stay with him until His Father’s will is done?**

*“Were you there”, asks the old song, “when they crucified my Lord?”*

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