
Devotional for Lent 6

Reading through Mark



During the season of Lent (14th February to 28 th 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.

It is hoped that you will also use the devotional to prepare for worship.

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.

Lent 2018 : Week 6

Read through the Gospel of Mark, chapters 15 & 16
“ Trail, Death and Resurrection ”

The Cross was a political symbol before it was a religious symbol. The first level of meaning Mark's readers would get is political.

Pilate knew, the crowds knew and the chief priests knew what it meant. It was the ultimate symbol of Roman power: ugly, brutal not a sight to enjoyed or even spoken about in polite society.

Today, people wear crosses jewellery - Has the symbol lost it's power?

Six times in 32 verses Mark refers to Jesus as the King of the Jews.

Two other themes are also set: 1. Jesus is silent and 2. Jesus is innocent.

***What do you think is the theological point Mark is making for his readers?
What is happening to God's kingdom, to the work begun in Jesus?***

Whats stands out for you in these chapters? Please take note of why:

Mark builds up the story of Jesus' crucifixion with a collection of snapshots, one detail after another, moving swiftly from scene to scene.

Place yourself before the cross.

Take a moment to look at the scene from the point of view of the various characters noted by Mark: the soldiers mocking him; Simon of Cyrene; the two robbers; the two Mary's and the other women present.

What range of thoughts and emotions are evoked in you as you look at the Cross from these different perspectives?

***Are we too familiar with the words used to tell of the death of Jesus?
How else might we tell this story?***

We discover now that the women have been with Jesus and the disciples all the way along.

Women were regarded as “worthless witnesses” by the ancient world how important is what happens next?

There is a blank at the end of the story.

Perhaps we can use the faith of the early church in believing that Jesus has Risen from the dead to explore our own faith and fill in the gap today.

Do we take Easter for granted or are we left awestruck at this new work of God?

What do we know of the Risen Lord? Where is he now “going ahead of us”?

What tasks has he set for us today in taking the gospel to the end of the earth ?
