

The background of the entire page is a light gray, semi-transparent pattern of thorns, likely representing the crown of thorns. The thorns are thin and branch out in various directions, creating a complex, web-like structure.

# THE SUFFERING **KING**

STUDIES IN MARK 12-16

Mark's gospel is hurtling towards a breath taking conclusion.

The Christ has arrived in his capital of Jerusalem and he is angry. Very angry.  
Conflict, betrayal, rejection and death await. None of it will surprise Jesus.

It's why he came in the first place.

It is exactly as the hymn describes -

*"Man of Sorrows," what a name  
For the Son of God who came  
Ruined sinners to reclaim!  
Hallelujah! what a Saviour!*

## Mark 11:27-12:44

### Read Mark 11:27-33

1) Skim back over the previous verses in Mark 11:1-26. What events have lead up to this confrontation between Jesus and the jewish leaders?

2) What do we learn about both the jewish leaders and Jesus in this confrontation?

### Read Mark 12:1-12

3) Who are the "them" in v1? Who is this parable directed to?

4) What is the key lesson of the parable?

5) What do we learn about Jesus from this parable?

### Read Mark 12:13-17

6) How is Jesus' wisdom and authority on display in this exchange?

### Read Mark 12:18-27

7) How is Jesus' wisdom and authority on display in this exchange?

**Read Mark 12:28-34**

8) How is Jesus' wisdom and authority on display in this exchange?

**Read Mark 12:35-37**

9) How is Jesus' wisdom and authority on display in this exchange?

**Read Mark 12:38-44**

10) What is Jesus' main criticism of the teachers of the law?

11) How does the widow exemplify the danger of the teachers of the law?

**Think it over**

- How would you describe Jesus in this section of Mark?
  
- Are you challenged or comforted by Jesus in this section? Why?
  
- Jesus displays a mastery over all types of situations and topics in these verses. Why do we therefore find it so hard at times to trust and obey him? How can we help each other in this?

**Read Mark 13:1-4**

1) What was the Jerusalem Temple like at the time of Jesus? (try Googling the topic)

2) Why would Jesus' comments have been so shocking considering the role of the Jerusalem Temple in Old Testament Judaism?

3) Why are Jesus' comments unsurprising given the events of the previous 2 chapters?

4) What two questions do the disciples ask Jesus in verse 4?

Question 1: When...

Question 2: What...

**Read Mark 13:5-29**

*In these verses Jesus answers the "what" question.*

5) According to v5-13 what are some of the things which will happen before the Temple is destroyed? In what ways did these things happen in the book of Acts?

6) According to verse 14 what is the sign the Temple is about to be destroyed? Look up Luke 21:20-22 for comparison. Why do you think Mark uses the language he does?

7) In verses 24-27 Jesus uses elaborate cosmic imagery to describe the implications of the Temple being destroyed. From your understanding of the Old Testament why would the destruction of the Temple be such a traumatic experience for Israel?

**Read Mark 13:30-37**

*In these verses Jesus answers the "when" question.*

8) When will the Temple be destroyed?

9) What key lesson does Jesus seem to be stressing here?

10) Use Google to discover the details of the Jerusalem Temple's destruction in AD70. How do the historical events fit with Jesus' words in this passage?

**Think it over**

- In what way is Mark 13 a fitting conclusion to the previous 2 chapters?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What implications does the Jerusalem Temple's destruction have for us?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Read Hebrews 10:19-25. How does Hebrews help us answer the previous question?

**Read Mark 14:1-11**

1) What different reactions to Jesus do we see in these verses?

2) What things do we discover about Jesus in this section?

3) Why do you think Judas decides to betray Jesus?

**Read Mark 14:12-31**

4) What was the Passover celebrating? (cf Exodus 12:17-20)

5) How does Jesus change the meaning of this meal for his disciples? What does this tell us about Jesus?

6) Try and imagine reading this section for the first time. What surprises does it contain? What feelings does it produce in you as a reader?

**Read Mark 14:32-52**

7) List all the ways the disciples' unfaithfulness are shown in these verses?

8) List all the ways Jesus' faithfulness is shown in these verses?

**Read Mark 14:53-72**

9) What aspects of Jesus' trial does Mark choose to emphasise? Why do you think that is?

10) Up until now Jesus has been quite discreet about his identity as the Christ. Why do you think he openly confesses it now?

11) How is Peter's betrayal different to that of Judas? How is it similar?

**Think it over**

- What is the most comforting thing you've discovered about Jesus in this section? Why?
  
- In what circumstances are you most tempted to be ashamed of Jesus or to deny following him? How might Mark 14 help you at those times?
  
- What lessons can we draw from Peter's experience?



**Read Mark 15:1-20**

1) Verse 2 records Jesus' last words before being crucified. Why are they significant?

2) In what ways does Jesus show himself to truly be "the king of the Jews" in these verses?

3) How is Barabbas symbolic of Jesus' mission? (cf Mark 10:45)

**Read Mark 15:21-39**

4) The crowds insult Jesus over his claim to rebuild the Temple (v29-30). What don't they understand?

5) The crowds also insult Jesus about not saving himself (v31-32). What don't they understand?

6) Take the time to Psalm 22. Why do you think Jesus picked this psalm to quote from the cross?

7) Why do you think the curtain of the Temple was torn in two? (think back to Study 2 on Mark 13)

8) Compare the centurion's testimony to God's testimony back in Mark 1:10-11. In what way could the centurion's words be considered a fitting conclusion to the whole of Mark's gospel.

**Read Mark 15:42-47**

9) Mark gives very specific detail about the release and burial of Jesus' body. Why do you think that is?

10) This is Joseph of Arimathea's first and only mention in Mark's gospel. What feelings do you think Joseph was having?

11) Try and imagine you were reading Mark's gospel for the first time. How would your emotions be similar to that of Joseph's.

**Think it over**

- Were there any aspects of Jesus trial and crucifixion that especially impacted you? Why?

- In what ways will Jesus' crucifixion shape your life this week?

- Finish by slowly reading through Isaiah 53. This Old Testament passage was written hundreds of years before Jesus. It describes a mysterious suffering servant who will bear the sins of many. It is of course a prediction of Jesus. Use Isaiah 53 as a basis for prayer.



