

Studies in Sorrow

When we think about the gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – Mark isn't usually the first place we go. Yet Mark, listening to the eyewitness accounts of Peter, wrote a fast-paced gospel sharing the miraculous things Jesus did, including His death and Resurrection, to convince his Roman readers that Jesus is the Son of God. Let's not overlook what we can learn about our Savior in the overlooked gospel.



INTRODUCTION

Chapter 14 of Mark tells about the actions of disciples Judas and Peter shortly before the crucifixion of Jesus.

STARTER QUESTION

We all have regret over something. How do you handle your feelings of regret?

INTO THE WORD

Jesus is an authentic leader and teacher. One example in today's sermon was when Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-36). What signs of authenticity do you see in this example? What are some other examples of authentic leadership from Mark 14? How can we practice authenticity when we examine the emotions that we experience in our daily life, and be able to take action into resolve? Can you think of any authentic leaders in today's world that you respect, and if so, how have they inspired you?

Judas and Peter both betray Jesus. Compare and contrast what motivated them and what the outcomes were. How did they feel afterward and what did they do about it? What do you think made the difference in the outcome of Judas versus Peter when they experienced their respected visceral emotions of regret and grief? Refer to: Matt 26:14-16, 47-49 and 27:3-5; Mark 14:66-72.

Psalm 34:18: The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. -How do you think this verse makes a connection with some of the characters studied in the sermon?

APPLICATION

Remember that Jesus honored Judas, even though he knew Judas would betray him. How do you treat people who you feel have betrayed you? How could we act more like Jesus in those moments?

It is often easier to ask for forgiveness than to forgive ourselves. Do you think Peter ever truly forgave himself? What are some things we could do to forgive ourselves?

When we are driven by visceral emotions, our reactions can help us or hurt us. Why is that? Give examples of how visceral emotions prompted positive and negative responses in today's sermon. Do you have a personal example you can share?

PRAYER

Lord, I ask that you be with Pastor David and continue to keep Your healing hands on him as he recovers. Thank you for the message today. Mark tells us how Jesus honored Judas by giving him the first piece of bread and Judas sat to the left of Jesus. I pray that I can honor those who I feel hurt me instead of being filled with anger and resentment. Help make me to be more like Jesus. I hope I never will betray anyone, but in those moments I pray that I am more like Peter and I can have the heart to ask for forgiveness. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.