

“Jesus’ Final Night”

Mark 14:12-65

Introduction

- We are doing a study in the final week of Jesus life, the greatest seven day period in human history
 - Where man was redeemed, where our sin was paid for, and where Jesus had victory over death
 - The greatest week ever!
- It started with Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, fulfilling prophecies from Daniel 9 and Zechariah 9
 - The next day after Jesus prayed it in and thought it thru was the cleansing of the temple
 - Then later that day He is examined by the Sanhedrin and the Herodians, the Pharisees and the Sadducees

The Reason being as we have talked about this was Passover Week in Jerusalem

- and on the 10th day of the month lambs all over the city were to be brought into homes
 - one, so you would fall in love with these perfect lambs so you would realize the severity of your sin
 - but also to examine them to see if they were without spot or blemish
- Jesus’ examination began at the exact same moment as these Passover lambs
 - And as our text indicates in verse 12, we had come to the day the Passover lambs would be killed, the 14th of Nisan

Now this causes some confusion because we are going to see Jesus have a meal with His disciples at night and then it would be the next day He would be crucified, so how is that all the same day?

The answer comes in understanding the way the Jewish people saw a day

- we in the western world measure our days from midnight to midnight
 - that is fine, that works for us
- But the Jewish people saw their day from sundown to sundown
 - So as Jesus is having His Passover meal, the Jewish day, the 14th of Nisan had just begun
 - He would be crucified around 3pm the next day as our thinking goes
- But to a Jewish mind it is still the same day, Jesus would be killed right before the next day was about to begin at evening.

This also answers the question we get asked a lot – if Jesus was crucified on a Friday and rose from the grave on a Sunday how do you get 3 days in the grave

- because a Jewish day goes from Sundown to Sundown
 - and any part of the day is consider a day
- So Jesus was crucified and buried before Sundown on Friday, Sundown Friday Night to Sundown Saturday night – day two, and once the sun was down on Saturday Night, it was the third day
 - To a Jewish mind, which day begins at Sundown

So in our text this morning we are looking at the last night of Jesus’ earthly ministry, or to a Jewish mind, the first few hours of his last day

- and this morning we are going to see events transpire at three locations around the city of Jerusalem and at each of these locations there are great lessons for us to learn

The Three Venues of Jesus’ Final Night

Venue #1 – The Upper Room – Mark 14:12-31

- This final night of Jesus begins in the upper room
 - And Jesus sets this whole thing up

- Some liberal scholars like to portray this last day of Jesus as Him overplaying His hand
 - That He had a plan to rule right then and now, but He got caught up in the wheels of history and it destroyed Him
 - Nothing could be further from the truth
- Jesus is in complete control
 - He tells His disciples to go into the city of Jerusalem
 - He tells them to follow a man carrying a pitcher of water

Understand in those days it was only the women who would carry a pitcher of water around

- so people wonder how would they know which man carrying water to follow
 - it would be like today saying – follow the man carrying a purse
 - of course today with all the man purses, this might be tough as well
- **Picture of Tom Brady with the man purse**
 - Sorry Tom, although he does make it look cool
 - **Snoop dog with a man purse**
- Not Snoop though – not cool – **back to outline**

A man carrying water would have been unique in the first century, so Jesus says follow that man to the master of the house and ask him where the room is where we can eat the Passover together

- apparently Jesus has prearranged this as well
 - church history records that this upper room was at the home of Mark's parents – we can not know for sure, but interesting side note

They meet in this home, maybe the parent's home of Mark, the author of this book we are studying

- and in this home they have the Traditional Jewish Passover meal
 - since the time of the Exodus, God told them you will have this feast on the 14th of Nisan forever to remember what I did in Egypt
 - you were slaves and I sent the death angel to pass over you – those with the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of their home, the angel passed over, but those who did not have the blood, the first born would die
- And the Jews ever since that first Passover night have kept this annual feast to remember that significant event in their history

John's gospel makes it clear they were laying around a table, traditional Jewish style – leaning on the left arm

- and John's gospel even gives us the seating chart with John leaning on the chest of Jesus and Jesus leaning on the chest of Judas
 - this just shows us once again all the opportunities Jesus gave Judas to repent and go in a different direction
- It was at this meal that Jesus washed the feet of every one there, including Judas
 - It was at this meal that Jesus said one of you will betray me and everyone said, "Is it I?"
 - Without anyone knowing, Judas could have whispered in Jesus' ear, "I'm sorry, I repent" – but he did not
- And before the instituting of communion we are told in John's gospel, Judas left the meeting

The rest of them sat as Jesus hosted the Passover meal

- no doubt explaining the lamb, giving details that I wish one of these bums had recorded
 - Jesus would talk about the bitter herbs and how they symbolized the time of affliction as slaves in Egypt before God set them free
- And Jesus would have talked about the bread, being unleavened because it was a symbol of how they had to leave Egypt in haste, not having time to bake their bread with leaven

But then as Jesus passed the bread around, it was supposed to be done in silence

- but Jesus broke the silence when He said, “This is my body, broken for you”
 - Jesus took a part of the Jewish Passover feast and forever changed the significance
 - This now speaks of my body, given for you

Then Jesus passed the cup and again something that was suppose to be done in silence, Jesus broke tradition again and said, “This is my blood, the blood of the new covenant”

- as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup do it in remembrance of me

Jesus took this ancient Passover meal and took two elements of it, the bread and the cup, and He told His disciples from now on these speak of me, partake of them in remembrance me

- communion is such an important part of the Christian life
 - why? – for some it just seems like an empty ritual
 - but I believe the Lord intends it to be so much more for you and me

Jesus wanted the disciples every time they partook of the bread and cup to remember Him – to look back and remember all that He was about to do

- why – because you and I have the tendency to forget
 - I forget people’s names, I forget meetings I am suppose to be at
 - I forget where I put my keys – I really believe they grow legs and walk away – I am glad I have my kids at home to blame, I don’t know what I will do when they are gone, because I have this funny suspicion that I will continue to loose them
- God knows that is true for all of us
 - So He sets up communion so we will never forget what He did

That His body was torn apart, that His blood was spilt, He was separated from His Father so you and I will never have to

- and every time I partake I want to remember what He did for me and be reminded of His love and His goodness
 - and not just that

Look at verse 25 of Mark 14

- not only should we look back when we partake of communion and remember what Jesus did
 - but I think we should also look ahead
 - Jesus told His disciples, I will not drink this fruit of the vine again, until I drink it with you in my Father’s Kingdom

Communion not only helps me to look back and remember what Jesus did

- but it is also a time to look forward to when we will all be in His Father’s Kingdom
 - when this life with all its trials and troubles is over and we are in heaven with Him!

I need this

- I need to remember what Jesus did, to remember how much He loves me and how valuable our relationship is to Him
 - I need to look back
- And I need to look ahead
 - Because I can get so focused on the here and now
 - So focused on my issues and what I am going through, and my problems – that I start to strive and rebel and do my own thing

You see I believe if we don’t spend regular time at the table, looking back and looking ahead then you and I will have a greater chance of becoming just like Judas or Peter

- you see Judas and Peter both focused on what they wanted
 - both focused on the here and now only

- Judas realizes this guy is not going to rule and reign, he is going to die, so I am going to get out of this what I can now
 - And Peter thinking – no – my plan is still possible – If we fight, the Kingdom of God will come to earth now
 - And both, yes in different ways, but both would betray him that night because they were focused on right now, what I need right now
- They were not focused on Eternity and Heaven
 - But when I come to the table, I remember – God you love me – I can trust you
 - I remember heaven is coming – I don't have to be totally fulfilled now, I don't have to get all I can now – I am, we are, going to heaven!
- Such important lessons at the table of communion, instituted there in the upper room

The Three Venues of Jesus' Final Night

Venue #1 – The Upper Room – Mark 14:12-31

Venue #2 – Garden of Gethsemane – Mark 14:32-52

- By the way that last verse many believe is an autobiographical statement from Mark about himself when he was younger
 - Remember tradition holds that it was his parents home that hosted the last supper
 - So as the disciples were heading to the Garden, this young boy followed, not wearing much
 - And when Jesus was arrested the men tried to grab him too, but he left his shirt in their hands and ran away naked
- This is only recorded in this gospel and some scholars believe it is because it is a personal story about Mark, the author of this gospel

But speculation aside, what we do know is the next venue Jesus and His disciples come to on Jesus' final night is the Garden of Gethsemane

- Now **Gethsemane means "oil press"** and this garden was located on the slopes of the Mount of Olives
 - Remember two weeks ago when we studied the Olivet Discourse, not called Olivet because Jesus teaches all of it, but because it was taught on the Mount of Olives
 - So we are back to where we were two weeks ago, just a few days ago in the chronology of Jesus' last week
- So again here is a view of the Mount of Olives
 - **Picture of Mount of Olives**
- And here is a picture taken from the Mount of Olives toward Jerusalem, and you can see that still today Olive trees dot its slopes

So Jesus goes on this Mountain to a garden that had an olive press to make olive oil, but tonight it is Jesus that is being pressed

- the gospel of Mark describes Jesus as distressed
 - of course Dr. Luke in his account of this says that Jesus began to sweat great drops of blood
 - Jesus was under huge emotional stress
 - Why???

Because He understood within hours He would face the cross

- and personally I don't believe it was the pain of crucifixion that He was stressed over, though no doubt Jesus' humanity was afraid
 - but it was the fact that Jesus would become sin for you and me
 - He would take on the sin of the world – image every disgusting attitude and action being put upon Him – this one that had never done anything wrong, never had an impure thought, yet within hours He would become all of that
- And more than even becoming sin as 2 Corinthians 5:21 tells us, Jesus was going to bear the Wrath of God and for the first time in the history of the world, He would be separated from His father

- It was more than He could bear
- So what did Jesus do?
- He fell on His face and He prayed

What do you do when you are overwhelmed?

- To what do you turn when your world is falling apart? When you are stressed out of your mind
 - Do you turn to alcohol?
 - Do you turn to drugs, or pornography?
 - Or maybe something a little less sinister, an evening of TV

Jesus found the strength to face the most sobering of realities, not in any of those things, but on His face in prayer

- and precious ones, if God made flesh, needed to pray to endure His time of greatest trial, how much more do you and I need to be steeled in the school of prayer

Jesus told His disciples that night

“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation.” – Mark 14:38

- Great friends, the enemy is trying to tear apart your family
 - Precious church we are in a battle for the souls of our community and country
 - And the enemy throws in our direction grenades of trials and circumstances and doubt
- But you know, we don't fight this battle with carnal weapons
 - We don't fire guns or bombs at the enemy
 - We fight this battle on our knees in prayer

And the church as a whole in America today is weak and ineffective because we have lost this idea

- we are so self sufficient, we are so capable in our own devices
 - or at least we have convinced ourselves it is so
 - but precious ones – God has not changed since the days when a wind shook the upper room, and the mouths of lions were stopped
- God has not changed since the Red Sea piled up on top of itself and bread fell from heaven as the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness
 - God has not changed
 - I fear we have changed – we have changed and because of it we don't see the importance of why Jesus pleaded with His disciples – “watch and pray! Watch and pray!

God calls us back to being men and women that fight our battles on our knees

- For the sake of our wondering hearts, for the sake of our wayward children, for the sake of the souls who are not being saved
 - God brings us back to this reality!
 - Watch and pray!

Jesus prayed and even more importantly than that, He prayed, “not my will but yours be done”

- Jesus was asking God, was there any other way for men to be saved other than the cross
 - In His humanity He was so overwhelmed with the thought, He was asking if there was another road man could take
 - And the answer from heaven was silence

This is why I get so frustrated with Christians who don't seem to know there is only one way to heaven

- I understand why the world thinks that, but sometimes you get famous pastors on TV and they are asked, do you believe non believers go to heaven
 - “Well I am not into saying who is going to heaven or not” and I appreciate that they know they are not the judge, God is
 - But friends – the Word of God is pretty clear

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” – John 14:6

- Jesus said, I am the way, not a way, He is the way, the truth, the life, no one comes to the Father but through Him
 - Our Lord and savior prayed in the garden if there is any other way for man to be saved then lets go that way
 - And the silence from heaven seals the deal friends, there is no other way!

Jesus asked if there could be any other way but then He prayed not my will be yours be done

- Aren't you thankful for that!
 - aren't you thankful Jesus was submitted to the will of the Father
 - because the will of the Father was best don't you think
- How many of you would be bummed if Jesus said, I lived perfect so can they, let them try
 - How many of you would be bummed if that is how the Garden of Gethsemane ended?
 - You should all be bummed – because we will all be a in a heap of trouble
- I am so thankful that Jesus understood, I have a will but God your will is best, so let me pour out my heart to you, but we will do it your way!
 - Such an important lesson for us all to learn

I remember I was a dating a girl my senior year in high school, and this was before I met the most amazing person on the planet my wife, but back then I wanted her to be the one, and I gave the Lord the benefit of my insight – she is perfect Lord!

- but then she brook up with me – she broke up with me because I had to shave my head because I lost a golf bet, and this girl I thought was perfect, said our relationship couldn't handle me without hair
 - You see I know this is hard for you to image, but if you wonder where my son got his blonde locks, he got them from me, thickness from...

I will never forget this kid I sat in front of in Chemistry, when I walked in and said, 'why did you do that, you had perfect hair – can you image me being described that way - I had locks

- and when they were gone this “perfect girl” broke up with me – and I didn't understand

Now can you image if God had honored my request, how do you think my marriage would be if it was based on the quality of my hair? – Anyone – would I be in trouble – amen I would

- listen I'm giving God all of my reasons, but the Lord knows, son, you aren't going to have those golden locks forever and if a girl marries you because of your hair, you are in trouble son
 - the Lord knows – I didn't know
 - the Lord knows! – Friend – the Lord knows!

And more than that the Lord loves

- remember communion – remember what we look back to
 - Him dying for you and for me
 - A God that loves you that much, don't you think He has your best interest in mind and so is worthy for us to say – Your will be done!
 - So important for us to believe this and pray this way

So important precious church so again we don't end up like precious Peter – fighting again the circumstances of His life

- did you notice 46-47
 - as they are arresting Jesus, Mark tells us that one of the disciples took a sword and started looping ears off - one of the disciples!
- now Bible students – do you remember Pastor Rob and I sharing with you who Mark's source for his gospel was

- remember Mark is a young man when Jesus is ministering, probably a junior higher
- so he can tell us in detail about the last supper, it was at his house, he can tell us about running away from the garden naked, it was probably him

But the years of info before this night, who was Mark's source

- well it was Peter
 - Peter is Mark's source for this gospel

Now think through and look again at verse 47, "one of the disciples, pulled a sword" – Let's talk about the Garden...

- I can't really remember who that was, but one of those guys started failing away, because He doesn't trust that God is in control
 - One of the disciples? - Peter that was you!!!!

But before we get to tough on old Peter – if you and I don't watch and pray – if you and I don't pray – Lord your will be done

- then like Peter, the moment circumstances in our life are not exactly as we expected them to be, which is all the time for most of us
 - well then you like Peter will be failing away – no, no, not fair, this can't happen
 - and people will be losing ears all around you – unless you watch and pray, unless you pray and believe because He loves you – Not my will, but yours be done!
- Quickly one more venue

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Venue #2 – Garden of Gethsemane – Mark 14:32-52

Venue #3 – Caiaphas' House – Mark 14:53-65

- From the Garden of Gethsemane they take Jesus to the south side of Jerusalem to the house of Caiaphas the high priest
 - It is about a 10 – 15 minute walk from the Mount of Olives

And at his house the Jewish trial of Jesus begins

- now there will also need to be a Roman trial, that we will see in two weeks when we get to Mark chapter 15
 - there needed to be a Roman trial because the Jews had lost the right to degree capital punishment
 - this trial was to bring the accusation and state their opinion of guilt

But we can see as we read it was really a Kangaroo court

- these paid liars couldn't get their stories straight and the ones that could, well the Bible calls what they said, "false witness"
 - and that brings up a great point

"Do not bear false witness" – Exodus 20:16

- is one of the 10 Commandments
 - but this story in the gospel is the only example anywhere in scripture that actually calls what someone did 'False Witness'
- There are lots of stories of lying, but false witness goes even further

These men said, "Jesus said, tear down this temple and in three days I will build it up again"

- now if Jesus meant the temple, it was a capital offense to threaten to destroy the temple, that would be like saying today, I'm going to bomb the white house
 - now for all of your secret government agencies that listen to everything we Americans say, I didn't say I was going to do that, I was using it as an example – just to be clear and stay out of prison!

But here is the deal, Jesus had actually said those words, but He was not speaking about the temple, but His own body

- and this gives us some indication of what bearing false witness really is
 - it certainly includes lying
 - but it also includes giving the right information with the wrong implication

I was in Argentina last month visiting Pastor Danny and he could get on the big screen and tell all of you honestly – Pastor Jason kissed a girl that was not his wife when he visited me in Argentina

- and you could hear that and start thinking all kinds of crazy things
 - but the truth is, they greet each other by kissing each other on the cheek down there, and I was so awkward at it – it was the running joke
 - so right information – false implication
- So we need to be on guard
 - Well what I said what mostly true
 - You are still bearing false witness

These witnesses in Jesus' trial are bearing false witness, they can't get their story straight

- and the high priest realizes this thing is slipping away from Him
 - so he just asks Jesus – are you the Messiah, are you God
- And I love Jesus' response – I Am – He uses the same answer God gave as a name from the burning bush in Exodus chapter 3 when Moses asked, “God what is your name. I am”
 - Jesus says I AM – the religious leaders tear their clothes, condemn Jesus and then the humiliation and torture of our Lord began

As they spit on Him (what an insult), they put a bag over His head and beat Him, and slapped Him around - We will look more in two weeks at the suffering of Jesus

- but all that He did for us, this is why I need to take communion and look back and remember
 - and why I can pray with confidence, your will be done,
 - because I look at the sufferings of Jesus and I see that No one has ever loved me like that
- He is worthy of your absolute trust and obedience precious ones
 - Lets remember that as we take Communion