Home Group Questions:  July 2020

Mark 13:1-27   The end of the Temple and the end of the Age – Part 1
As they are leaving, the disciples comment about the magnificence of the temple complex. But Jesus says that not one stone will be left on another!
A short while later, they sit opposite the temple on the Mount of Olives and the curious disciples ask about when this will happen, and what signs will signal that it is about to happen.
As far as the disciples are concerned, the destruction of the temple must be the end of the world (cf. Matthew 24:3)!
Jesus proceeds to answer their questions, explaining that these will be 2 separate events. First, He talks about the destruction of the temple (which happened in AD 70) and warns His disciples about the kind of days that will lead up to it, and how they should remain focussed and alert. He then goes on to tell them about a sign that will signify the imminent destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, and warns them to flee before it comes.
The destruction of the temple will be a sure sign that Jesus is reigning and exalted in the throne room of heaven!

Summary: Here we see the final condemnation of the temple and judgement from God on a corrupt religious system which prevents the nations from coming to God. Jesus Himself is now the only sacrifice necessary for sin and the ultimate meeting place between God and man.

Q In v5-13 we see a typical portrait of the days in which the disciples will live before the fall of Jerusalem. What features here do we actually see in the book of Acts? How are these day very much like the days we live in today?

Q Read Daniel 7:13-14. Who does Daniel see in his vision? Where is he led? What is given to him? ...Who is the Son of Man? How does this help us to understand Mark 13:26-27?

Q Read Mark 14:60-65. What does Jesus tell the High Priest that He will see? What does this mean?

Q Why was the destruction of the temple such a big deal in the eyes of the disciples?

Q In what ways has Jesus replaced the temple?

Mark 13:28-37   The end of the Temple and the end of the Age – Part 2
Jesus finishes His prophecy about the destruction of the temple and the end of the age with 2 illustrations.
First of all, the fig tree which changes with the seasons. You can easily tell that summer is about to start because tender branches appear and new leaves sprout. The tree gives a sure and certain sign. This is like the sign in v14 by which they will clearly be able to discern the imminent destruction of the temple. The sign will give them enough warning so that they can flee the wrath to come.
The second illustration is of a master who goes away on a journey and does not know when he will return. He leaves his servants in charge and they are to keep the house in order, do their assigned task and keep watch, waiting for his return at any moment. This illustrates the way that we are to live even today, because we do not know the day or the hour of Christ’s return.
Summary: Unlike the calamity that befell Jerusalem, we do not know when Jesus will come back and so we should live our lives each day expecting His return.

Q Jesus finishes teaching His disciples by giving them 2 illustrations at the end of chapter 13, what are they?

Q Each illustration relates to an event, what are they? What is the contrast being made between these 2 pictures?

Q How are Jesus words in v30-31 a great encouragement to His disciples?

Q In Matthew 7:24-27 what lesson does Jesus teach about His words? How can we apply the lesson of this parable in our lives today?

Q Why is it foolish to speculate about the date that Jesus is coming back? According to the illustration in v34-37 how should we be living in these last days? (What should we be doing? How should we be living?)

Mark 14:1-11 What is Jesus Worth to You?
Mark sandwiches a wonderful story about a woman who expressed her deep love for Jesus by pouring expensive perfume on His head, between two scenes involving the Leaders of Israel and Judas expressing their hatred for Him. The Sanhedrin think Jesus is just a problem to get rid of; they want Jesus destroyed and are carefully crafting a plan to dispose of Him. Judas is willing to trade Jesus for money. But to this unnamed woman, Jesus is the greatest treasure she has ever discovered, of more value than the most precious thing she owns.

Summary: For a true disciple of Jesus, He is the greatest treasure and the pearl of great price! False belief is revealed by our willingness to sell Him for that which the world offers.

Q What is Jesus worth to a) the chief priests and teachers of the law (v1-2), the woman (v3-9) and Judas (v10-11)?

Q Read v4-5. Why were some of those present angry about what this woman did? Compare John 12:5-6 – What was the underlying issue?

Q Read v9. What is about what this woman does that lies at the heart of the Christian gospel?
Mark 14:12-25 Not a victim.
It is Passover. Jesus has everything prepared because this last supper will be a very important event.
At this meal, Jesus predicts his betrayal without singling out the traitor and then goes on to instigate the Supper.
It’s a fantastic sweep of intentional planning on behalf of the Godhead! The Passover pointed forward to the Lamb of God who would give His life as the saviour of the world, and the Supper will commemorate the greatest of all deliverances whilst also anticipating the final consummation of the Kingdom of God.

Summary: Jesus was not a victim of History. The Crucifixion was not an accident. Everything about Jesus’s last hours were perfectly in accordance with the God’s salvation plan.

Q Jesus has been popularly portrayed as a great teacher who over-reached himself and became the victim of powers beyond His control. In what ways do these verses powerfully declare that this was not the case?

Q Read v21 Why do you think Jesus doesn’t specifically identify the traitor? (cf. Matthew 26:25, John 13:27)

Q Take a look at 1 Corinthians 11:23-30. What do the bread and the cup represent at the Lord’s Supper? Who is this Supper for? Who is it not for?

Q How did the Passover feast point to a greater fulfilment that would be seen in Jesus?

Q Read v25. How does this statement from Jesus confirm that He was in complete control of what is about to happen?