



ST. FRANCIS
IN THE FIELDS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Tuesday Bible Study

Week 14

Mark 14-16

December 13, 2022

1. Read Psalm 23. What parallels do you see between this Psalm and Jesus' last days, especially in Mark 14:3-9.
 - a. We often read Psalm 23 as being about *us*. How does it change when you imagine Jesus to be the primary speaker in the Psalm?

2. Read Mark 14:12-16 and reread Mark 11:1-10. What parallels do you see? What does this suggest?

3. Have you ever made a bold promise (to God or to someone else) that you were unable to keep? How did you feel?
 - a. The prediction of Peter's denial and the denial itself are one of the few incidents in all four gospels. Why do you think this is? Why is this an important lesson for us and for the church?

4. What do you notice about Jesus' prayer in Mark 14:34-36? What can we learn from it? How is it similar to, or different from, prayers you have offered when you are deeply troubled/grieved?

5. Bonus: The Psalms of lament are quoted or referenced repeatedly in the story of Jesus betrayal, crucifixion, and death. Choose one or more (Psalm 3, 5, 6, 7, 13, 17, 22, 26, 27, 28, 42, 43) and see what parallels you can find. What do these Psalms tell us about how Jesus might have understood his suffering and death?

6. It is easy for us to want to dismiss or judge the chief priests who arrest and try Jesus. It is worth asking if there are ways you times that we have put God "on trial" or put Him to the test? Have you ever questioned God's faithfulness? Why do you think Jesus' responds the way he does to the high priest in Mark 14:60-62?

7. Mark's resurrection account ends abruptly at Mark 16:8. How does this make you feel? Is it hopeful or fearful? What have we learned so far from Mark that we can use to make sense of this unsettling ending?

8. Now that you have finished the Gospel of Mark, compile and review you list of names for Jesus. What do these tell you about who He is, and what kind of Messiah He is? Share your favorites with your small group.