

# The Day Time Seemed to Stop - *Mark* *14:12-26*

## Introduction

- We all know the saying “time flies when you’re having fun” right? Well have you ever had one of those moments when the opposite of that is true? Maybe there’s something coming up that you’re really nervous for, like a job interview, or when someone tells you they have bad news to share, and you have to wait to find out what it is. Doesn’t it seem like moments like that cause all of time to come to a screeching halt? Like there’s nothing you can do to change what’s coming, and everything slows down, so you just feel the weight of every second, and each moment seems to just go on and on and on as you’re anticipating, and often dreading what’s coming.
- Well Darryl gave us a bit of an introduction to the book of Mark last week, as we’re looking at the last few chapters of the book as we’re going through this season of lent, and I love the way that he described Mark. It’s such a dynamic, vivid, action packed book. It’s full of words like “*immediately, this happened*”, or “*at once, that happened*”. It’s such a fast paced, and action packed account of Jesus’ ministry. It just feels like you’re running from one event to the next with barely a breath in between. And there’s a reason that Mark wrote his account of these events in such a dynamic, fast paced kind of way.
- The reason he seems to be fast tracking the story throughout the book is because there’s a specific point he’s trying to get to. It’s all about getting to one particular moment, and every story that he tells is almost like a small vignette that is there to move the story forward to that all important moment.
- If I were to give a subtitle to the book of Mark, it would be “*running to the cross*”, because that’s what a lot of the book feels like.
- Mark takes a period of a number of years while Jesus was doing his public ministry, and jumps over huge periods of time, including a few relevant stories, and each one he includes is meant to continue pushing us forward to the cross.
- Even consider the story that we looked at last week and when that took place. Mark 14:1 says:

*“It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread.” - Mark 14:1 (ESV)*

- Now look at the beginning of V. 12:

*“on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb” - Mark 14:12 (ESV)*

- So he includes the story of the woman anointing Jesus, then skips over the next two days, and suddenly we're here at the day of the passover, when the passover lamb will be sacrificed. And that's an important detail that I want you to remember for a bit later.
- But now that we've gotten to the day of the passover, starting in V. 12 of Ch. 14, it feels like that fast paced, action packed story comes to a screeching halt. Where before Mark would skip over huge chunks of time, moving the story along to get to the cross, now that we've gotten the the day of the passover, which we know is the day that Christ will be put to death on the cross, the story slows right down, and it feels the same as waiting for that interview you're terrified of. You can't change what's coming, and now we're taking our time to get there.
- Everything that happens between Ch. 14-15 all happens within the span of one day, and we're meant to feel the incredible weight and significance of every moment of what's about to happen.

## **Jesus Knew Everything He Was About to Face**

- And that day starts here in Mark 14:12-26, as Jesus sends his disciples into Jerusalem to find a place for them to celebrate the passover together, and they eat an incredibly important meal. Today, we call this meal *“the last supper”*, because we know that it is the last meal that Jesus would share with his disciples before he would be betrayed, beaten, mocked, and killed on the cross. Do you feel the tension in the air as all of this is taking place? Knowing what's going to happen to Jesus within the next 24 hours.
- And as we look at this story, there are two massively important things I want us to see about Jesus.
- And the first thing is this, that Jesus knew everything he was about to face.
- The way that Jesus is presented in this passage shows so clearly his knowledge, as well as his control over everything that was taking place. Nothing about what's happening here, or what was about to happen was a surprise to him.
- And I think we see that knowledge play out in two different ways here.

### ***He knew the events that would take place***

- First, he knew every event that would take place.

- Look at V. 12-16. This passage is kind of split into three different “*scenes*”, but here at the beginning we see Jesus actually sending his disciples to prepare the passover meal, and the incredibly detailed instructions that he gives them.
- He instructs them to find a man carrying a water jar, and wherever he went, tell the master of the house that they would be coming for the passover, and there would be a place prepared for them to celebrate together.
- So he gives these incredibly specific instructions, and then in V. 16 we read:

*“And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.” - Mark 14:16 (ESV)*

- Everything happened exactly the way that Jesus said it would. He knew exactly how it was all going to play out. And this goes so much deeper than just the dinner preparations. Jesus also knew what was going to be happening after their meal together.
- On a number of occasions throughout the book of Mark, we see Jesus telling his disciples that he is going to be laying down his life, and he will have to die, yet each time they have either not understood it, or rather fully denied that it could ever be true.
- In one instance Peter even took Jesus aside and tried to rebuke him, telling him “Jesus you can’t be saying stuff like this”, which didn’t exactly go well for Peter.
- So Jesus knew everything that was about to unfold, and in these simple, yet detailed instructions that he gives to his disciples about how to prepare dinner, he’s showing them, and in a way saying to them “I know what’s going on, and I know exactly what’s about to happen. Nothing is outside of my control. You can trust that what I’ve told you will happen, will actually happen.”
- And this includes what he’d told them already about his death, as well as his resurrection. Jesus knew every event that was about to unfold.

### ***He knew the hearts of those involved***

- And then in V. 17, we come to the second “*scene*” of this passage and we see that Jesus knew so much more than just the events that were about to unfold. It goes deeper to the point that he intimately knew the hearts of every person that was involved.
- This is not something that is going to be true of this passage only, and we’re actually going to be seeing it again and again as we continue working through the ending of Mark, but we see so clearly here that just as Jesus knew the things that were about to happen, he knew exactly how each individual person would be involved, and how they would respond to what was going to happen.

- And again, there's a lot of weight there. We have the advantage, for those who have read this story before, that we also know how people are going to respond, and treat Jesus in all of this, and unfortunately, we know that it's not going to be good.
- But let's look at what Jesus says in V. 18. These are such heartbreaking verses:

*“And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, ‘Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.’” - Mark 14:18 (ESV)*

- He knew that someone in his inner circle, his closest friends who had the most intimately close relationship with him, would betray him in the most devastating way possible. Turning him over to be killed in exchange for money.
- And we see that Jesus knows the hearts of his followers even better than they know their own hearts. We know that Judas would be the one to betray Jesus, but look at V. 19:

*“They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, ‘Is it I?’” - Mark 14:19 (ESV)*

- Jesus has just dropped a massive bombshell on them, and the disciples start to become worried that they might be the one to betray Jesus.
- And Jesus goes on to tell them that it is in fact one of them, who was there with them during this intimate meal who would be the one to betray him.
- Before the night is over we'll see all of them abandon him. Next week we'll see that the rest of the disciples may not have betrayed Jesus in the same way that Judas did, but by the end of the night, every single one of them would have let him down, abandoned him, and left him completely alone in the time that he needed them most.
- One of Jesus' disciples would sell him out to the Pharisees, yet every single one of them would abandon him.
- And as we read these verses, we can be quick to look at Judas and think “how could you ever do something like that? I would never betray Jesus like that for a bit of money”. But I want us to consider this quote from R. Alan Cole as he comments on these verses:

- *“we are not called to an abstract condemnation of a ‘third party’, in Judas. Instead we are called to the solemn heart-searching of verse 19, ‘Is it I?’”*

- As we read these verses, I want you to take the opportunity to really and honestly examine your own heart. We are quick to look at people like Judas and think “how could you ever do something like that”. And don't get me wrong, what Judas did was terrible, and we're right to be appalled by it. You can see in V. 20-21 that Jesus has some incredibly strong words for the one who would betray him, saying:

*“For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” - Mark 14:21 (ESV)*

- But really, I think that Jesus’ words here may be better seen as an opportunity to reflect on our own hearts towards Christ, rather than just looking down on Judas.
- R. Allan Cole continues on from the quote I just read to tell a story of some incredibly powerful words said by a great Christian, of a condemned prisoner: *“There but for the grace of God, go I”*
- Essentially, *“if not for the grace of God, I would be in the same place as that man”*.
- How true that is. Because just as Jesus knew so intimately the heart of Judas, and the things that he would do, he also knows our hearts. Sometimes he knows them even better than we do. And the uncomfortable reality about all of our hearts, is that we are sinners, who have rebelled against God, and rejected him, and we are worthy of God’s judgement because of that. *“The wages of sin is death”*, and we deserve those wages for the things that we have done.
- And that might sound pretty heavy and discouraging, but it makes what’s coming up next all the more amazing.
- *“There but for the grace of God, go I.”*

## **Jesus Chose to Become Our Perfect Passover Lamb**

- Let’s move on to read what happens in the third *“scene”* of this passage, as Jesus shares this final meal with his disciples in V. 22-26. If you’ve been at Liberty Grace for long, this should sound fairly familiar to you:

*“And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, ‘Take; this is my body.’ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, ‘This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.’” - Mark 14:22-25 (ESV)*

- Understanding the amazing and intimate knowledge that Jesus had of the events that were about to unfold, and the hearts of those involved, makes these verses all the more significant to reflect on.
- Because despite Jesus’ knowledge of what was coming, he made no effort to avoid it, and actually willingly chose to lay down his life.
- This is what the entire book of Mark has been building to.

- Like I've said, on a number of occasions Jesus had already told his followers throughout the book of Mark that this is where things were headed, and here, on the very night that all of it was going to happen, Jesus sits down to eat this powerful passover meal with his followers. A meal that will forever afterwards serve as a reminder of his incredible sacrifice.
- And on the note of that meal, I want to take us back to something that we mentioned from V. 12:

*“on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb” - Mark 14:12 (ESV)*

- There's so much depth here, and it's so much more than just a bit of context, letting you know when all of this is happening, though it does accomplish that purpose as well.
- The passover meal, which was an annual celebration for the Jews had a particular significance going all the way back to their time as slaves in Egypt during the time of the Exodus.
- Before the Israelites were freed from Egypt to go to the promised land, God sent ten plagues on Egypt because of Pharaoh's unwillingness to obey and let God's people go. And the tenth plague, the most devastating one, was the plague of the first born. That God sent the angel of death on Egypt to kill every firstborn son in all of the land.
- But God declared that for those who sacrificed a spotless lamb, and spread the blood of that lamb on their door posts, the angel of death would *“pass over”* those houses, protecting those inside, which is where the meal got its name of *“passover”*.
- So the passover meal for the Jews was such a significant reminder of God's faithfulness and mercy, and each year, when the passover lamb was sacrificed, it would remind the people of how the blood of that lamb had served as a kind of covering, protecting everyone in the house from the angel of death that God sent on Egypt.
- But this meal also had another purpose. Not only was the passover meant to be a time of remembrance for God's people, it was meant to point them forward to a much greater sacrifice that was coming.
- All throughout Israel's history they would sacrifice animals to receive forgiveness for their sins, but God had promised that one day, he would provide a perfect sacrifice once and for all for the forgiveness of sins, and that is the greater sacrifice that the passover was meant to point forward to.
- That's what makes V. 12 so significant. Pointing out that it is now the day when the passover lamb would be sacrificed is not only referring to the animal sacrifices that would be happening that night, but also to the greater sacrifice of the perfect passover lamb that was about to happen.

- That's the second amazing thing we see about Jesus here. He chose to become our perfect passover lamb.
- Like I mentioned earlier, you and I are sinners, who have rebelled against God, and deserve justice because of what we've done, yet because of the incredible grace of God, he sent his Son to be the perfect passover lamb, to lay down his life and provide his blood as a covering for our sins, so that we can be forgiven, and enjoy a relationship with him.
- There is no more powerful message that you will ever hear in church than this. This is the Gospel, and everything that we do here all revolves around this message that Christ chose to lay himself down on our behalf.
- Even though Jesus knew what was coming, he knew that he would be betrayed and abandoned by his closest friends, he knew he would endure incredible pain, and the wrath of God on the cross, he willingly chose to lay down his life, to become our perfect passover lamb.
- Here's a quote from James Edwards.
  - *“Jesus is not a tragic hero caught in events beyond his control. There is no hint of desperation, fear, anger, or futility on his part. Jesus does not cower or retreat as plots are hatched against him. He displays, as he has throughout the Gospel, a sovereign freedom and authority to follow a course he has freely chosen in accordance with God's plan. Judas and others may act against him, but they do not act upon him.”*
- Despite all his knowledge, Jesus chose to lay himself down for us.
- That's really the big idea of this passage: **Despite knowing all of the betrayal and suffering he would endure, Jesus chose to become our perfect Passover Lamb.**
- Isn't that amazing?

## Conclusion

- And like I said at the beginning, as the pace of the story of Mark screeches to a near halt starting in V. 12, it adds so much weight and emphasis to the events that are taking place here. The things that are happening right now, in this passage, and the things that we will look at in the weeks to come leading up to Easter are the whole reason that Mark wrote his book.
- Every detail included in this story is meant to add weight, and wonder in our hearts as we consider what Christ has done for us.
- Mark is no longer running to the cross in his book, we've gotten to the day that the passover lamb is sacrificed, and Mark wants to make sure we take our time to sit in the significance of what that means, and the significance of everything that goes on in these chapters.
- Consider again that despite knowing all of the betrayal and suffering he would endure, Jesus chose to become our perfect Passover Lamb, sacrificed on our behalf, to provide his blood as a

covering for our sins, so that we could receive forgiveness. Without the grace of God, and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, we are all in the same situation as Judas.

- And as we come to the end, I want to remind you of a question that Darryl hi-lighted for us in the passage that we looked at last week: How do we respond to Jesus?
- Right here, and right now, how will *you* respond to what Jesus has done? And what this passage teaches us, to know how intimately he knows your heart, and that he still chose to become the perfect passover lamb on your behalf, so that you could receive forgiveness for your sins.
- How will you respond?
- You can't hear this message and not respond in some way. Whether you respond by accepting it, or rejecting it, the Gospel demands some kind of a response from us.
- It can be discouraging to reflect on our own hearts and realize how sinful we are, but it's important. It's important to realize just how serious our sin is, and how serious the consequences for our actions are. Though we shouldn't just stop there.
- Here's a quote from a pastor named Brad Bigney:

- *“Glance at your heart, but gaze at Christ”*

- Glance at your heart. Recognize that you are sinful, recognize that your sin is serious, but let that recognition cause you to gaze at Christ, at the beauty and the glory of the Gospel, and simply be in awe of him.
- Let that recognition drive you to your knees, to turn to Jesus in repentance and faith, and receive forgiveness of your sins.
- Romans 10:9-10 says:

*“if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” - Rom. 10:9-10 (ESV)*

- So glance at your heart, but let it cause you to gaze at Christ, and remember that **despite knowing all of the betrayal and suffering he would endure, Jesus chose to become our perfect passover lamb, so that we could be forgiven.**