

Bible Reading Together during this Covid-19 Shutdown

January 17-23: Read Joshua 7 & Gospel of Mark 14

Joshua 7

The story of Achan is shocking for our modern readers. We learn that 1) nothing is hidden from God, 2) the real price of sin is indeed scary, and 3) family is seen by God as one unit.

Further Study & Discussion

- What did Achan do that was so wrong? Can his actions be justified? Is God's command cruel and inhumane? How do we defend God and charge Achan?
- What resulted from Achan's sin? What happened to his community? What happened to his family?
- While Achan alone committed the great sin, his whole family were judged most horribly. Is God being unfair here? Explain this story in context of the covenant relationship with God and why we baptize infants even though they could not have made a decision for Jesus.

Mark 14

The costly anointing, the betrayal by Judas Iscariot, the Last Supper...this day may be the second most difficult day for Jesus.

Further Study & Discussion

- Read the story of the woman anointing Jesus at Bethany. Why do you think this woman came to Jesus to anoint Jesus? Why use her most expensive perfume? And talk about the conversation Jesus had with his disciples on wasting the good stuff.
- The Last Supper is connected with the Passover feast and the Passover Lamb (v.12). Explain what the Passover feast is, and how is Jesus the Passover Lamb? And why don't we observe the Passover anymore?
- What do you think is going through Jesus' mind as he served the Last Supper, and then went to Gethsemane to pray? Mark wrote Jesus was, "...distressed and agitated" (v.33) and told his disciples, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake" (v.34).
- Peter's denial is predicted in vv.26-31, and his denial is recorded in vv.66-72. Place yourself in Peter's shoes. How would you be like him, and how would you be different? Write with honest self-reflection.