

INTRO

- What type of books do you like to read?
- What makes for a good ending to a story or movie for you?

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Mk 1:1

In this final part of the Gospel of Mark, the good news (gospel) about Jesus comes to a climax.

Qu: what makes Jesus such good news? How is his death, burial and resurrection the heart of the gospel (good news)?

READ

Mark 15:33—16:8

REFLECT

The good news of Jesus culminates in his death, burial and resurrection. It is the good news of judgement, victory and grace.

THE GOOD NEWS OF JUDGEMENT

Read Mark 15:33-34 again. It is a sobering scene of God's ultimate judgement of our sin and Jesus bearing the weight of that judgment.

Qu: Think of real life scenarios where we want good judgement. Now, how is it that God's judgement is in fact good news for us?

In the core of everyone is a god-given desire for justice. God's judgement is an act of his justice—he has judged & diagnosed our sinful condition rightly but also provided the remedy. When we lose sight of God's holiness, his judgement toward sin can seem unnecessary and cruel. But, **the cross points upwards towards God** providing forgiveness for our sin.

Qu: what does the temple curtain tearing (Mk 15:38) mean? How does it assure us God is once-and-for-all satisfied with Jesus' atonement for our sin?

THE GOOD NEWS OF VICTORY

Jesus uttered another loud cry just before his death (v37). In John's gospel, Jesus cries out "It is finished!".

Qu: what is finished? What has Jesus accomplished?

The cross also points downward toward Satan providing us freedom from sin. Sin is not just the wrong things we do and the resulting guilt we have; sin is a power over us that enslaves us. God didn't just forgive our sins—he did something about it. Through the cross, the power of Satan, sin and death itself has been confronted and defeated.

Qu: If Jesus has provided forgiveness and victory for us, how then should we live in light of that we are still tempted to sin and fall sometimes?

THE GOOD NEWS OF GRACE

The cross points sideways toward all of us, reminding us that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone.

Qu: Mark gives us 3 examples of the heart of the gospel—salvation by grace—by highlighting the Roman centurion, women, and Joseph. Why are these 3 examples so significant?

It has often been pointed out that a religious-mindset says, "I obey, therefore I'm accepted by God", whereas a gospel-mindset says, "I am accepted by God, therefore I obey."

Qu: which mindset is easier for you to believe? Why is it so important we grow in our understanding and experience of grace?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Respond to God in prayer out of today's discussion.