

1. MARK tells us about Jesus' last night with his disciples, and his trial by the Jewish court, the Sanhedrin.

In Mark 14:12-26, we see Jesus instructing two of his disciples detailed instructions and accurate series of events that follow. Also, during the Passover feast, Jesus predicts one of the 12 disciples together with him at the time will betray him. He knew that this Passover would be his last with his disciples.

In Mark 14:27-31, we see Jesus foretelling Peter's denial after mentioning all 12 of them would fall away. This again was so detailed and accurate — Peter's denial of knowing Jesus three times before the rooster crowed.

In Mark 14:43-49, Jesus was about to be arrested; after telling his prosecutors about their bringing of swords and clubs to capture him like as though they were against a robber, he mentioned to let the Scriptures be fulfilled as according to the Old Testament.

Mark 14:43-49 (ESV)

⁴³ And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? ⁴⁴ Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me, but let the Scriptures be fulfilled."

In Mark 14:61-62, Jesus testifies in front of the high priest asked whether he was Christ, Son of the Blessed:

Mark 14:62 (ESV)

And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

From these accounts from Mark, we know that Jesus' death was not a mistake or accident.

2. Jesus knew that it was his mission to die. However, that did not mean that death was easy for him. In Mark 14:33-36, it is depicted that Jesus was greatly distressed and troubled. Jesus is also mentioned to have fallen down on the ground and praying fervently that the hour might pass from him. Jesus cries out to God in Mark 15:34, asking why God has forsaken him.

Mark 15:1-16:8

3. At the moment that Jesus died, something happened in the temple on the other side of the city (Mark 15:38). The curtain of the temple had been torn in two from top to bottom.

Mark 15:38 (ESV)

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

The temple curtain was like a big "No entry" sign. It showed that people were cut off from God because of their sins.

* In the Old Testament, it is mentioned that such a setting is done for only the holiest of places for people to make sacrifices to or face God. Only those considered worthy, an example being the priest, can enter.

* With Mark recording this happening to the curtain at the temple, it signifies that people are no longer cut off from God upon Jesus' death on the cross.

4. In Mark 14:50 we see the disciples deserting Jesus. In Mark 14:66-72 we see Peter repeatedly disowning him. Given all that Jesus had said about his death, they may have responded as such that they were not ready to die or willing to be for him for that matter.

5. A Roman centurion was in charge of the crucifixion. When Jesus died, he mentioned his belief that Jesus was the son of God.

Mark 15:39 (ESV)

And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the son of God!"

A centurion would have had plenty of experiences with the crucifixion of men, but seeing to that supernatural events (darkness over the land on the sixth hour - around noon, and the tearing of the temple curtain into two from top to bottom) happening during and after Jesus' death, he recognized that Jesus was not just a mere person, rather acknowledging him as son of God.

6. Grace is when God treats us in the opposite way to what we deserve. It is an undeserved gift. Peter had disowned Jesus three times (Mark 14:66-72). Knowing that he was undeserving of any grace at all, Peter may have been in disbelief when he was given the message of Mark 16:7.

Mark 16:7 (ESV)

But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."

The grace Jesus shows to Peter is a picture of the grace now offered to us.

Q: How will you respond to the gift Jesus offers?

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- 84 Jesus Delivered to Pilate (Mark 15:1-5)
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- 87 The Crucifixion (Mark 15:21-32)
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- 90 The Resurrection (Mark 16:1-8)