

Scribe's appeal: Unlike any other human endeavor, there is a reward beyond measure in studying the Word of God, and no other way to get to know Him. If these notes are useful to you, and you've enjoyed them, please send me an email at tbeachhead@comcast.net. If they raise any questions or if you get inspired, share this with me...and we can encourage each other!
-Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.

(This is written to give you good things to enjoy, because look again at what Paul told Timothy (1 Tim 6:17-18)! I think he was thinking of us at the time: **17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be conceited and not to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth, but in God, WHO RICHLY PROVIDES ALL THINGS TO ENJOY. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share...**)

The following ice breaker is just a starter for your group. The message comes after the bar. Please enjoy!)

CROWD BREAKER Did you do anything for lent? Do you have a testimony? Whom did you text and invite? How can we pray for them?

Note: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP. The purpose is to unite, not divide; to proclaim fearlessly the freedom the gospel brings. Any part of these notes might be appropriate as a crowd breaker for your own group. The goal is to create memories from Sunday that will serve for a long time. BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study. This study is also a great devotion, taken slowly through the week.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions raised by Pastor Mark's message from this Palm Sunday. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.**

Explain why "Good Friday" is called "good."

Look up Isaiah 52:13-53:12

The Servant Exalted

(Philippians 2:5-11)

13Behold, My Servant will prosper;

He will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.
[14](#)Just as many were appalled at Him—
His appearance was disfigured beyond that of any man,
and His form was marred beyond human likeness—
[15](#)so He will sprinkle many nations.
Kings will shut their mouths because of Him.
For they will see what they have not been told,
and they will understand what they have not heard.

Isaiah 53: The Suffering Servant

[\(Acts 8:26–40; 1 Peter 2:21–25\)](#)

[1](#)Who has believed our message?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
[2](#)He grew up before Him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.
He had no stately form or majesty to attract us,
no beauty that we should desire Him.
[3](#)He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.
Like one from whom men hide their faces,
He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

[4](#)Surely He took on our infirmities
and carried our sorrows;
yet we considered Him stricken by God,
struck down and afflicted.
[5](#)But He was pierced for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him,
and by His stripes we are healed.
[6](#)We all like sheep have gone astray,
each one has turned to his own way;
and the LORD has laid upon Him
the iniquity of us all.

[7](#)He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet He did not open His mouth.
He was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before her shearers is silent,
so He did not open His mouth.
[8](#)By oppression and judgment He was taken away,
and who can recount His descendants?

For He was cut off from the land of the living;
He was stricken for the transgression of My people.

A Grave Assigned

(Matthew 27:57–61; Mark 15:42–47; Luke 23:50–56; John 19:38–42)

9He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with a rich man in His death,
although He had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in His mouth.

10Yet it was the LORD's will to crush Him
and to cause Him to suffer;
and when His soul is made a guilt offering,
He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days,
and the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.

11After the anguish of His soul,
He will see the light of life and be satisfied.
By His knowledge My righteous Servant will justify many,
and He will bear their iniquities.

12Therefore I will allot Him a portion with the great,
and He will divide the spoils with the strong,
because He has poured out His life unto death,
and He was numbered with the transgressors.
Yet He bore the sin of many
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Highlight the prophecies in this passage that were fulfilled on this day. How many do you find? Prize to the one who finds the most.

Pastor Mark begins with a question: If I cannot see Him, how do I know he's there? Answer.

Look up Luke 24: The Resurrection

(Matthew 28:1–10; Mark 16:1–8; John 20:1–9)

1On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared. **2**They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, **3**but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. **4**While they were puzzling over this, suddenly two men in radiant apparel stood beside them. ***Who are these beings? Why two? Notice how they are described. What makes this encounter different from an encounter with a gardener?***

5As the women bowed their faces to the ground in terror, the two men asked them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" ***This is a commonsense question. Why are***

they seeking the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you while He was still in Galilee: ⁷'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.'

⁸Then they remembered His words. **Why then and not when He spoke to them? Does faith come by hearing the Word the first time?** ⁹And when they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the Eleven (**Why only Eleven?**) and to all the others. **Who are "all the others?" How many? (Look at Acts 1 for a guess. See scribe's notes below.)** ¹⁰It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But their words seemed like nonsense to them, and they did not believe the women. **Notice the unbelief. Compare it to that of the women at the tomb. Why is there so much unbelief? Would you have believed the report? Why does Isaiah ask, "Who has believed our report?"**

¹²Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. And after bending down and seeing only the linen cloths, he went away, wondering to himself what had happened. **Why is it significant that it is Peter who got up and ran? Can you remember what Jesus said He was praying for him?**

Mark says, "The question the angels asked, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead?' is significant. We often seek life in the wrong places." **Do you agree? How and when?** "We're looking for hope, peace, friendship. **But we're looking in places where these cannot be found.** Explain.

So, where is Jesus today? Look up Hebrews 1:3 ³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His nature, upholding all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. **Is this the answer? Is there more than this to the answer?**

Look up Acts 7: ⁵⁵But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked intently into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." **Is this the answer? Is there more than this to the answer?**

Look up Romans 8: ³¹What then shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **Answer Paul's question.** ³²He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, freely give us all things? **Answer this question. What does "all things" mean? What does it mean for you today?** ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? **Now answer this question. Have you felt condemned lately? Is it possible to turn, and repent, knowing that there is now NO condemnation? What is the impact?** It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is there to condemn us? For Christ Jesus, who died, and more than that was raised to life, is at the right hand of God—and He is interceding for us. **Does this answer the question? Explain what He is**

doing for us right now. How is that extremely good news? What impact does His intercession on your behalf have on your life daily? Now say, how important is the resurrection to us? What does the resurrection prove concerning Jesus' intercession on our behalf?

35Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? **Have you felt separated from the love of Christ? Have you been? How can you know? Are any of these circumstances in the list a "who"? How does this list become personal? 36As it is written:**

"For Your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

37No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. **How much "more" is more? 38For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Think of your most personal issues: If you CANNOT be separated from that love by any of those issues, is there more that love can do in you, now? For you? From you to those around you? How much power is there in this to repent? To recover? To conquer?****

Look up John 16:7 7But I tell you the truth, it is for your benefit that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. **Why is it to our advantage that Jesus "go away?" How can it be more advantageous with the Spirit, than with the bearded and sandaled fellow? Have you personally found that advantage? Can you say you're better off without Jesus at the table because the Holy Spirit is there? Can you pray, right now, for that to be true for you, too?** Mark says, "He sent His Spirit so that EVERYONE can encounter Him AT ALL TIMES, in EVERY PLACE. That is the beauty of the Holy Spirit." **Is that true? Does that help? Why? Describe the advantage.** Mark says, "The Holy Spirit is actually Jesus' essence expressed." **Explain.** "The Spirit can be with everyone throughout the world at all times." **How?**

Relate a time (dark time, lonely time...or joy-filled time) where you suddenly became aware of His presence, and you knew He was there with you and for you. What happened next?

Look up Matthew 18:19-20. 19Again, I tell you truly that if two of you on the earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven. 20For **where two or three gather together in My name, there am I with them.** **Where is Jesus in this verse? How often does this happen? Now answer this: Where should we be "looking for life"?**

Look up Matthew 25:37-40 ³⁴Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you took Me in, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you visited Me.'

³⁷Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? ³⁸When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹When did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?'

⁴⁰And the King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.'

Where can Jesus be found according to this parable? If we serve those in these conditions, whom do we serve? Look at what Jesus tells Paul in Acts 9 ³As Saul drew near to Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?"

⁵"Who are You, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," He replied. ⁶"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Whom did Paul think he was persecuting? Whom was he actually persecuting? How closely does Jesus identify with the troubled and the persecuted. What does this mean, "If you've done it for the least of these, you've done it for me?" Where does Jesus hang out? (See the scribe's note below on the ninety-nine.)

Pastor Mark continues, "I'm trying to convey that Jesus is not someone far off, and distant, on a throne somewhere. But He is ever so close to us." **Does this make sense now?** "We've all had moments in our lives when we've felt empty, alone, abandoned." **Where was Jesus through those times? Can you see He was with you then? What do you see?** "It is just a matter of asking that He be there, and He is there." **Take a moment to pray this through. What are you sensing? Maybe, write it down and date your words.** Mark says, "It's not like he's distant and we have to draw Him in. We just need to turn our face to His face. He's been there the whole time." **How does this help?**

Do you know anyone who is hurting right now who needs this message? What is the strategy? What is the next step? Remember to pray together

Jesus has come in the Spirit, as the Spirit, to be the "paraclete," the advocate, the comforter. Take the time to listen to Him and write what He tells you.

Scribe's biblical notes:

On "all the others..." who were with the apostles after the resurrection. It's often overlooked that Jesus sent out seventy after he sent out the twelve, and that these, like the twelve, did signs, wonders, healings, miracles, casting out demons and raising the dead. Luke puts the number in the upper room at 120 in Acts 1:15, when they chose Judas' replacement from among "...those who have accompanied us the whole time."

On the women who accompanied Jesus: Legends are written of Mary Magdalene, or Mary of the village of Magdala. You find her mentioned even in Dan Brown's gnostic novel *The DaVinci Code*. It is said she was a prostitute, but there is no biblical evidence to connect her with that trade. This remains an ancient legend. We only know from the record that seven demons were driven from her, and that she accompanied the group. AND, we know that she is the first person to whom Jesus reveals Himself after He rose from the dead. "Mary the mother of James" could easily be Mary the mother of Jesus. She had a son named James, and she was associated with John and James from the cross, when Jesus said to John, "Behold your mother." Joanna has been with Jesus, bringing provisions for the team since Luke 8. Luke says she is the wife of Herod's household manager, Chuza.

On The Ninety-nine:

You wonder where I am. You feel like God has abandoned you.
You're right, little flock.
You're of the ninety-nine.
I have gone to seek and save the lost.
Don't fear.
Don't leave the flock.
Or...
...seek me.
I'm with the lost; I'm in their homes.
I'm calling them.
You can just sit and sleep. (*Prophecy spoken April 2000*)

A final look at the resurrection:

⁴⁴Jesus said to them, "These are the words I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms." ***How have you become a part of that fulfillment? Are there prophecies that remain to be fulfilled?*** ⁴⁵Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

Who will teach you these prophecies? How important is it that the Holy Spirit become your teacher?

46 And He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and in His name repentance and forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. **If Jerusalem**

is the beginning... where does New Hampshire fit in this verse? What else is included?

49 And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But remain in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." **How vital is that clothing? Have you asked God to be clothed with that power? Do it now!**

The Ascension

(Mark 16:19-20; Acts 1:6-11)

50 When Jesus had led them out as far as Bethany, He lifted up His hands and blessed them. 51 While He was blessing them, He left them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 praising God continually in the temple. **What comes next**

Life Group Notes 4/17/2022
Pastor Mark Resurrection Sunday
