

# Marks

Daily Prayer ■ Weekly Worship ■ Bible Reading  
Giving Time, Talents & Resources ■ Spiritual  
Friendships ■ Service In & Beyond  
the Church

# of Discipleship

October 18, 2020

Day 1: Mark 6.2,3

20 On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. The people in the synagogue (in His home town) were being forced to see Jesus as more than a teacher or healer. He had been teaching and healing in the surrounding area. As he began to preach in the synagogue he read from Isaiah 61 (The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor.) Jesus then simply said He was the fulfillment of those words. He is not merely a teacher or healer but the Messiah come to save the people!

Question: Why were the people in Jesus' home town offended by his words?

Challenge: What has bothered you about Jesus' words?

Scripture: I Corinthians 1: 10-25

Day 2: I Corinthians 1.18-20

18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' 20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? In the first century there was peace throughout the Roman world. It was called "the peace of Rome". This peace came because the civil wars ended with Augustus being proclaimed Emperor. This peace came at the cost of thousands of deaths and much destruction of property. The answer, at that time, as to how to achieve peace was to kill off the opposition and their supporters. This was the wisdom of the world Paul is calling foolish. The power of God is in giving life not death.

Question: Do some research to see what the civil wars in the 1<sup>st</sup> century cost in terms of life and property

Challenge: Listen to people talking about how to solve our country's problems. Think about their solutions to being peace in our land

Scripture: Isaiah 29:13-24

Day 3: I Corinthians 1. 23

23 But we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles?

The early Christian message was telling people about the Crucifixion and Resurrection. It was more than telling the story; it was telling the story and how it transformed your life. This transformation was then exemplified by the actions of the individual as they lived the hope they believed. The Jews could not fit the Crucifixion and Resurrection into their concept of God's plan for their salvation. The Gentiles could not fit the Crucifixion and Resurrection into their world view.

Question: Could you tell someone the event of Good Friday and Easter Sunday?

Challenge: Power and pride were two principles that were thought to be the way to live your life. Where do you see these today?

Scripture: John 19:28-30 & John 20:1-10

Day 4: I Corinthians 1: 24-25

24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. We could ask why not show to the world signs and wonders instead of the messy business of a crucified messiah? We could make a better marketing approach than claiming that Christ crucified is God's power displayed. To the world love and forgiveness will look like weakness but it is what God uses to exhibit real strength.

Question: Does the world think love and forgiveness is weakness?

Challenge: Why do you think God's power was displayed in the Death of Jesus?

Scripture: James 1.22-27

Day 5: I Corinthians 1.26-27

26 Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. In the first century power and pride were the moral underpinnings of the culture. Christianity said these attitudes were false and that the moral underpinnings of society were love and humility. Paul tells the Corinthians that though not many of them were wise or wealthy still they know what was really important in life.

Question: How do you think the Corinthians responded to Paul's comments in vs.26.

Challenge: Think about what has helped make you—wise—powerful—or noble.

Scripture: Matthew 6.19-29

Day 6: I Corinthians 1: 28-29

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 8 God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, 29 so that no one might boast in the presence of God. Paul reminds the Corinthians that they did not choose "God" but that they were chosen by God. They were chosen to be the light of the world to show by their approach to living that love and humility will bring about an abundant life.

Question: How did God choose them? And for what?

Challenge: What is there about your life that you are proud of?

Scripture: Romans 5.1-8