

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

March 24, 2024 • Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion • Mark 14:32-72, 15:1-39, 40-47

The Passion

Once again we hear the reading of Jesus' passion. This year we read Mark's version. Like the other Gospels, it is a long, well-staged narrative that covers Jesus' last days from his anointing with oil to his crucifixion on Good Friday.

The Palm Sunday reading from Mark's Gospel is unlike the other Gospel narratives of Jesus' last days. Mark's Gospel begins in Bethany with Jesus being anointed. There is no procession of palms in Mark, but he does take us through the Last Supper, the blessing of the bread and cup, right on to Jesus' death and burial.

Sometimes I think we know the story of Jesus' passion so well that it has lost its drama. We listen to it without really hearing it. Yet those two days in the history of the world had more impact on who we are as a people than the hundreds of millions of years that preceded it.

Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection we can reclaim our heritage as children of God. This is good news. This is big news.

Take some time this week to pick up your Bible, and read the story of Jesus' last days yourself (Mark 14:32-72, 15:1-39). Imagine you are hearing it for the first time. Put yourself in the drama. Stop reading once in a while, close your eyes, and listen for Jesus' voice or the voice of one of the disciples. Read

slowly and purposely. Remember the sequence of events.

If you have older children, read the story together. Pause once in while to ask questions. Ask for their questions. If you have younger children, tell them the story. Be as dramatic and compelling as possible. This is the story of our faith, and we each need to claim it as our own.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Read the story of the passion. If you have time this week, go to church and go through the stations of the cross together.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

What are your thoughts and feelings as you read the story of Jesus' passion and death? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?