

## **Bible Readings Book by Book week 78 – w/c 30/4/23**

### **Week 78**

**Monday: Mark 12:13-27.** Jesus stated that the coin belonged to Caesar because his image was stamped on it. We should give our *self* to God because His image is stamped on us (Genesis 5:1). Are you giving back to God what he deserves both financially and in praise?

**Tuesday: Mark 12:28-44.** Bernard of Clairvaux refers to the three stages of love: 1. We love God for our own sake i.e. for what he can do for us. 2. We love God for God's sake i.e. we praise Him for His character. 3. We love ourselves for God's sake, i.e. we join with God in seeing ourselves in a compassionate and gracious light. What stage of love are you in currently?

**Wednesday: Mark 13:1-13.** V 12 speaks of a time of persecution. It is easy for us to underestimate how difficult a time of persecution could be. It was estimated that 165,000 Christians died for their faith in the year 2000 (Today's Martyrs, D. B. Barrett). Pray for the persecuted church today.

**Thursday: Mark 13:14-37.** Whatever we may think about the Second coming of Jesus, two things are clear: Firstly, the time of his return as King is not known to us (v33), and secondly, we must be ready and expectant. If it were to happen today, would there be things you would wish to have changed in your life?

**Friday: Mark 14:1-26** Jesus said we must take and eat the bread and wine. "Take" means it won't be forced upon you, you have to receive it. "Eat" means that it is absolutely vital to you as if we do not eat and drink, we will perish. Likewise, without Jesus we will perish. Thank God for this new covenant, sealed with his blood.

**Weekend: Mark 14:27-42** Peter's enthusiastic promise in verses 29 & 31 is put to the test in Gethsemane as well as later when he denies Jesus. He spoke without considering the cost or understanding his own weakness. How often do you make promises you can't keep? How confident are you in your own abilities rather than relying on God's strength?