

# Sermon Notes – October 22, 2023

## This Weekend

This weekend we are stepping out of our current preaching series in the Gospel of Mark to give time to think together about Christianity as a faith system. With the help of Dr. Gustavsson, we are entering the arena of Christian Philosophy and Apologetics.

On the back of your bulletin, you will find an article that introduces the topic for the weekend. Please pay attention because these issues ARE being discussed and debated all around us! During your Community Group this week you'll have the opportunity to interact with what each sermon was about by allowing those present to share what each heard. Please use the space provided here to take careful notes, both for your own learning and to better share with others what you learned.

## “Why Are We Here? On Moses, God, and the Meaning of Life” (Exodus 3)

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## “If God is Good, Why Isn't He?” (Psalm 73)

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## Observing next week's text in Mark (Looking ahead)

⇒ Read Mark 3:1-12 silently to yourself and make a list of the people or groups of people that show up in these verses. Share your list with the group to make sure you didn't miss any characters!

⇒ With your list in hand, take turns reading Mark 3:1-12 again aloud. Substitute words from your list of characters each time you come to any of the following pronouns: **they, them, their, he, him, his**. Take your time on this and make notes in the text any place where the meaning of a pronoun is confusing or surprising.

⇒ Read Mark 3:1-12 one more time and mark the following key words just as you marked them in the previous chapters:

**immediately**                      **authority**                      **crowd(s) (or people)**

**follow (following or followed)**

**demon (demon-possessed or unclean spirit)**

**Son of Man** (or other titles given to Jesus).

Share with your group anything new that you learned about **demons** and continue the chart you started last week on page 14 of your study book. Note each exact phrase referring to demons or unclean spirits and state which **who-what-when-where-why-how** question is answered by that phrase. Don't skip over this last step. Marking a key word is valuable only if it causes us to think more deeply about what kind of information we are being given.

**Time to THINK & PRAY** (Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Ask this question based on your study: what was the point of Sunday's texts, and how might you apply or respond to this information in your life?

And as always, take time to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then pray for those needs.

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Worship Next Sunday: October 29, 2023

“The Danger Of A Hard Heart”

(Mark 3:1-12) Pastor Jay Mosser

## “The Great Debate: King Agrippa & Governor Festus Meet Paul”

### (Acts 26)

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### Responding to God’s Word

- ⇒ What did you hear this morning that challenged your thinking?
  
- ⇒ Where do you hear or read these topics being discussed or debated in the public arena?
  
- ⇒ Was there something that caused you to think, “I wish my friend could hear that”? What was that? How might YOU share that comment or insight with that friend?
  
- ⇒ Perhaps you are wrestling with one or more of the topics presented today. How did hearing today’s sermon or sermons help you answer specific questions that you’re thinking about?
  
- ⇒ What ONE question would you ask as a follow up to what you heard this weekend? If you’re in a Community Group, consider asking that question of others in your group and seeing how they would answer.

## Community Group Notes

### Getting Started

Think about a time when you’ve had to change your mind about something. It could be something as trivial as discovering that technically there is no such word as “irregardless” or something as life changing as realizing that there really is a God when you were sure that the whole idea was just a fairy tale. What happens when you come upon undeniable evidence that something you have believed your entire life is wrong? How adept are you at changing your mind? Can you make the shift easily or do you thrash around for weeks on end, trying to explain away the evidence?

### Observing the texts from Sunday (Review)

1. On Sunday we heard Dr. Stefan Gustavsson preach *three* different sermons, all aimed at helping us think carefully about Christianity. What sermon/s did YOU listen to?
  
2. As a group, see if you can collect information on ALL three sermons – what was the main text of each and what was the main point of each?
  
3. How might the topic addressed in each sermon be helpful as you interact with people at work or with family members who have not yet trusted Christ as Savior?
  
4. If you could ask Dr. Gustavsson any question about the topics he presented, what would you ask? How might others in the group help answer those questions?