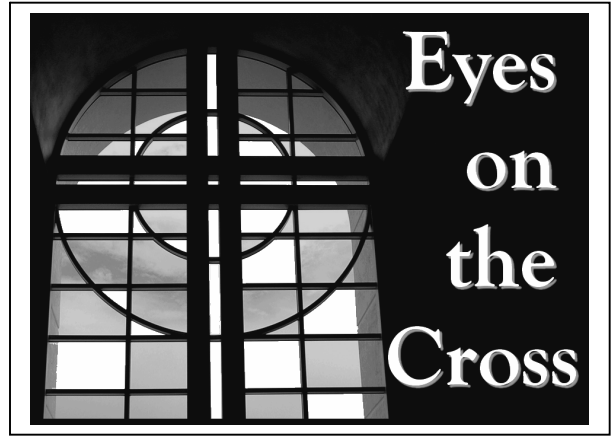


Getting Started

2. Which best describes the Easter in your past?
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dressing up (new clothes) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ham for dinner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dressing up (embarrassing) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunrise Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Egg Hunt | <input type="checkbox"/> Stations of the Cross |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family gathering | <input type="checkbox"/> No significance |
3. Which is the “worst” make-believe villain? Real villain?
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Joker | <input type="checkbox"/> Benedict Arnold |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Count Dracula | <input type="checkbox"/> Pol Pot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Corleone | <input type="checkbox"/> Osama bin Laden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sniveley Whiplash | <input type="checkbox"/> Joseph Stalin |



In the Word (Most groups won't answer all the questions or read all the texts.)

Opposition to Jesus began early in his preaching ministry. As you read from the various passages in Mark try to determine genesis of the opposition. What was the cause? Who led in this opposition? Why?

- Read Mark 2:1-12. Have you heard this story before?
 - What is the setting?
 - What does Jesus do? Say?
 - What is the response of the others? Who's happy and who is upset?
- Read Mark 2:13-17. What is another name for Levi (Matthew 9:9-13)?
 - Who comes to this dinner?
 - What question is asked? Who asks the question?
 - What do they seem to be implying? What is Jesus' response?
 - From what you know about Jesus, what was the point of his statement?
- Read Mark 2:23-28.
 - What is the objection to the disciples picking the grain?
 - What would have happened if they had not plucked the grain?
 - Why would this statement upset those to whom Jesus was speaking?
- In Mark 3:1-8 the author reveals an early plot to kill Jesus.
 - What had Jesus done this time that upset the people?
 - What had those opposed Jesus done that upset him? How does Mark describe Jesus' reaction?
 - Why do the Pharisees and Herodians wish to kill Jesus?

Application

People of faith should note the identity of those who opposed Jesus. Chief among them were people for whom religion was vitally important to their lives.

- In the coming week examine your words and actions towards those who don't observe our traditions. Are there times when traditions (even good ones and ones based on Scripture—for examples re-read Mark 2) and suppositions prevent you from “eating with” others?
- What priorities guide Jesus in the events Mark records? In what ways do your actions mirror these priorities? Can you name one specific action/attitude you need to change to more accurately reflect the heart of Jesus (a mere “adjustment” rarely suffices, see Mark 2:21-22)?