

**Gospel of Mark 10:31-16:8**  
**Using Responses to Jesus as "paragraph hooks"**

**Those following - were afraid**

10:32 Now they were heading towards going up to Jerusalem. And going before them was Jesus. They were astonished and **those following behind him were afraid**. Taking the twelve aside again he began to tell them the things that were about to happen to him. He said "Behold we are going up to Jerusalem and the Son of man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes. And they will condemn him to death and will deliver him to the Gentiles. They in turn will mock him, spit at him, scourge him and kill him. But after three days he will rise again." (Note: Text is mainly a paraphrase of the Literal translation in the RSV Interlinear Greek-English New Testament, 1988)

**James and John sit on right and left?**

10:35 And James and John the two sons of Zebedee approached him saying. "Teacher we hope that whatever we may ask you, you could do for us." He said to them. "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him. "Allow us so that **one of us can sit on your right and one of us sit on your left** when you come into your glory." And Jesus said to them. "You do not know what you ask for. Can you drink the cup which I am to drink or undertake the baptism which I am undergoing and will be baptized with?" And they said to him "We can". And Jesus said to them. "The cup which I drink you shall drink and the baptism with which I am being baptized is something you shall also be baptized with. But to sit on the right or on the left of me is not mine to give. It is for whomever it has been prepared." And hearing this the ten (others) began to be incensed with James and John. Calling them to himself, Jesus said to them. "You know that whoever is thinking to rule and lord it over the nations and exercise authority like great people shall not do so. Whoever amongst you who wishes to be great needs to become your servant. And whoever amongst you who wishes to be first shall be the slave of all. For the Son of man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom on behalf of many."

**Bartimaeus asks to see**

10:46 They came to Jericho. And as he was going out from Jericho with his disciples and a sizeable crowd, **a blind beggar** named Timaeus Bartimaeus was sitting by the wayside. Hearing that Jesus the Nazarene was there he began to **cry out and to say**. "**Jesus Son of David pity me.**"

**Crowd deny "Son of David" title**

10:48 **Many rebuked him** telling him that he should be quiet. But he cried out all the more. "**Son of David pity me.**" And standing still Jesus said. "Call him over." And they called the blind man saying to him. "Be of good courage, rise. He is calling you." So he, throwing away his garment and leaping up came to Jesus. Answering him Jesus said." What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him. "Rabboni let me see again." And Jesus said to him. "Go your faith has healed you." And immediately he (Bartimaeus) saw again and followed Him in the way.

**Colt to carry**

11:1 When they drew near to Jerusalem to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount of olives, he sent two of his disciples and told them. "Go into the village opposite you. Entering into it immediately you will find **a colt tied there**, on which nobody has ever ridden. Loosen it and bring it back. If anyone says to you "Why are you doing this?" say "**The Lord has need of it.**" Then bring it here immediately." They went out and found a colt that had been tied at outside a door on the open street. And they untied it. Some of the people standing there said to them. "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They said what Jesus had told them to say. And the people let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus. They threw their garments on it and he sat on it. Also many of their garments were strewn along the way. Others made wisps of twigs, cutting them out of the fields.

**the ones - "Hosanna-Kingdom of our father David"**

11:9 There were **people going before and people following** behind crying out **“Hosanna. Blessed is the one coming in the name of the Lord. Blessed be the coming kingdom of our father David. Hosanna in the highest.”** And he entered into Jerusalem and into the temple. And he looked around at everything. By now it was late and he then went out to Bethany with the twelve. On the morrow, going forth from Bethany he was hungry. Seeing a fig-tree from afar with leaves on it he came up to it expecting to find something. But there was nothing on it except leaves for it was not the time for figs. And he said to it. You will never bear fruit for anyone again. His disciples heard him. They came to Jerusalem and entering into it he began to cast out people who were selling and buying in the temple. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling the doves. He did not permit anyone to carry a vessel through the temple. He taught the people and said to them. "Has it not been written that my house is a house of prayer and shall be called so for all the nations? But you have made it into a den of robbers." The chief priests and the scribes heard about this they tried to find out how they could destroy him. They feared him for all the crowd was astounded at his teaching. When it became late he (and his followers) went outside the city. And soon passing along they saw that the fig tree had been withered from the roots. Remembering, Peter said to him. "Rabbi, Look. The fig-tree that you cursed has been withered." Answering him Jesus said to them. "Have faith in God. Truly I tell you that whoever says to this mountain "Take yourself and be cast into the sea and does not doubt in their heart but believes that it will happen, will find that it does take place." Therefore I tell you. Everything that you pray and ask for, believe that you will receive it and it will be given to you. And when you stand praying, forgive if you have anything against someone. Then your Father in the heavens may forgive you your sins. "

### **Rulers - "By whose authority?"**

11:27 They came again to Jerusalem. He was walking in the temple and **the chief priests and the scribes and elders** came to him. They said to him. **“By what authority do you do these things? Who gave you the authority to enable you to do them?”** Jesus said to them. "I will ask you one question and if you answer me I will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John. Was it of heaven or was it of men? Answer me." And they debated with themselves saying. "If we say of heaven he will say Then why did you not believe him? But can we say "of men"? They feared the crowd for everyone held that John really was a prophet. And answering Jesus they said. "We do not know." And Jesus said to them. "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things." And he began to speak to them in parables. "A man planted a vineyard and put a hedge around it and dug a wine press and built a tower. And he let it out to husbandmen and went away. And he sent a slave to those where were the husbandmen at the time so that he might receive the fruits of the vineyard from them. And taking him (the slave) they beat him and sent him away empty-handed. And again he (the owner) sent another slave to them. And that one they wounded in the head and insulted him. And he sent another. That one they killed. He sent many others. Some they beat and others they killed. He still had a loved son. At last he sent him to them saying. "They will reverence my son." But those husbandmen said to themselves. "This is the heir. Come let us kill him and the inheritance will be ours." And taking him they killed him and cast him outside of the vineyard. What will the lord of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the husbandmen and will give the vineyard to others. Does not the scripture say this. Read it. "A stone which is rejected by the ones building, this stone became the main head stone. This was from the Lord and it is marvellous to see." They tried to seize him yet feared the crowd for they knew that the parable was addressed to them. So leaving him they went away.

### **Pharisees re role of Caesar**

12:13 And some of the **Pharisees and Herodians** spoke to him so that they might catch him out in what he said. And coming they said to him. "Teacher, we know that you are true and you value this above people's opinion. You do not look at saving face but only at the truth of the way that God teaches. **Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar or not?** Should we give to him or not." But He knowing their hypocrisy said to them. "Why do you tempt me? Bring me a denarius that I may see it." And they brought one. And he said to them. "Whose image is this, and the superscription?" And they told him. "Caesar's" So Jesus said to them. "Render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." And they marvelled at him.

### **Sadducees c/f dying**

12:18 **The Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection,** came to him and questioned him saying, "Teacher

Moses wrote that if a brother should die and leave behind a wife without a child, his brother may take the wife in order to have a child on behalf of his brother. There were seven brothers. The first took a wife. But he died childless. The second married her but he also died without having a child. Similarly with the third and the whole seven, were childless. Last of all the wife died. In the resurrection when they rise again, whose wife shall she be? For the seven had had her as a wife?" And Jesus said to them. "You err in not knowing the scriptures and **the power of God. For when the dead shall rise again from death** they neither marry nor are given in marriage. But they are as angels in the heavens. Concerning the dead being raised, did you not read in the scroll of Moses about the bush and how God said to him "I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob?" He is not God of dead persons but of living ones. You err greatly."

### **Scribe - Love neighbour**

12:28-34 and 12:35-44 (i) (one called to love) **One of the scribes** approached on hearing them debating. Knowing how well he (Jesus) answered he questioned him. "What is the first commandment of all?" And Jesus answered. "The first is our Lord God of Israel is one. You shall love the Lord your God from your heart and soul and with all your mind and all your strength. The second is this. **You shall love your neighbour as yourself.** There are no greater commandments than these." And the scribe said to Him "Well said teacher, in saying there is One in truth and there is no other besides him. And we are to love him with all our heart and understanding and with our strength. And we are love our neighbour as ourselves. This is more than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices." Seeing him answer sensibly Jesus said to him. "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And nobody dared to ask him any more questions. When teaching in the temple Jesus said "How do the scribes explain that the Christ is the son of David when David himself said by the Holy Spirit "the Lord said to my Lord. Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet." How is it David calls him Lord when he is his son?"

### **Crowd - heard gladly**

(ii) Crowd hears gladly **The crowd heard him gladly.** And in his teaching he said "Beware of the scribes and the ones wanting to walk about in robes and be greeted in the market place. They want the chief seats in the synagogues and the chief places at the dinners. There are those devouring the houses of widows and having preference for long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation." And while sitting opposite the treasury, he watched how the crowd put copper coins into the treasury. Rich men put in many coins. But a poor widow came and put in two lepta which is a penny. Calling his disciples to gather around he said to them. "Truly I tell you that this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. For they gave out of their abundance. But this woman gave everything she had out of her own living."

### **One of his disciples praises temple**

13:1 As he went out of the temple **one of his disciples** said to him. "**Teacher what great stones and what great buildings these are** " And Jesus said to him "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be a stone upon a stone which will not be overthrown."

### **Disciples ask - Peter, James, John**

13:3 As he (Jesus) sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple **Peter, James, John and Andrew questioned him** privately. "Tell us when these things (temple destruction) will be and what sign will there be when these things are going to happen?" And Jesus began to say to them. "Watch out lest anyone leads you astray. Many will come saying they come in my name and they will lead many astray. But when you hear of wars and rumours of wars do not be disturbed. It will have to happen but It will have to happen but it is not yet the end. Nations will be raised against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in some places. There will be famines. These things are the beginning of birth-pangs. Watch out for yourselves. They will deliver you to councils and you will be beaten in synagogues. You will stand before rulers and kings for my sake giving witness to them. Yet it is a first priority to proclaim the gospel to all nations. And when they deliver you (to judgement) do not be anxious beforehand about what you are going to say. Speak whatever is given to you at that time. For it is not you who are the ones speaking, but the Holy Spirit. And brother will deliver up brother to death and a father will be against a child. And children will rise up against parents and will put them to death. And you will be hated by all people on

account of my name. But the one who endures to the end, that one will be saved. When you see the abomination of desolation set up where it should not be (let the one reading this understand) then those in Judea should flee to the mountain. The one on the roof should not come down nor enter to take anything out of his house. The one in the field should not return to take what was left behind or take his garment. Woe to the pregnant women at that time and to those breastfeed in those days. Pray that it may not happen in winter for there will be days of affliction such as have not happened since the beginning of creation when God created, until now and into the future. Unless those days be shortened nobody will be saved. But it is on account of the chosen that he (God) will shorten those days. And then if anyone of you says "Behold here is the Christ or Behold there (is the Christ) do not believe. There will be raised false Christs and false prophets and they will do signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, even the chosen. But look. I have told you all this before. In those days, after affliction the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give light. And the stars will be falling out of heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of man coming in Continued clouds with much power and glory. Then he will send the angels and they will assemble his chosen out of the four winds from the extremity of earth to the extremity of heaven. Now learn a parable from the fig-tree. When its branch becomes tender and puts forth leaves you know that the summer is near. So also you, when you see these things happening, know that hell is at the doors. Truly I tell you this generation will by no means pass until all these things happen. The heaven and the earth will pass away. But my words will not pass away. Concerning the day or the hour, no one knows, not the angels in heaven, nor the Son. No-one except the Father. Look be watchful. For you do not know when the time is. As a man leaving home gives his slaves authority to each do their work, he commands the doorkeeper to keep watch. You should watch therefore. You do not know when the Lord of the house is coming. It may be late or at midnight or at cock-crow or early. Watch lest when he comes suddenly he finds you sleeping. And what I say to you I say to all. Watch out."

### **Priests sought to seize him**

14:1 Now it was the Feast of the Passover and the feast of unleavened bread in two days time. **The chief priests and the scribes sought how they might seize him** by guile in order the kill him.

### **Woman anoints - to be remembered**

14:3 When he was in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper (and) reclining, **a woman came in**. She had an alabaster phial of ointment nard. It was pure and costly. Breaking the phial **she poured the ointment over his (Jesus') head**. Now there were some there who were angry within themselves. "Why such a waste of ointment? Couldn't this ointment be sold for over three hundred denarii and be given to the poor?" And they were indignant with her. But Jesus said. "Leave her alone. Why do you cause her trouble? She has done a good work for me. The poor you always have with you and whenever you wish you can do good to them. But you do not always have me. She did what she was able. She has anointed my body beforehand for the burial. Truly I tell you that wherever the gospel is proclaimed in all the world, what this woman did will be re-told as a memorial of her."

### **Judas sought to betray him**

14:10 **Judas Iscariot**, one of the twelve went to the chief priests **in order to betray him** (Jesus) to them.

### **Disciples grieve - Peter, James, John**

14:12 When it was the first day of unleavened bread at the time of the Passover sacrifice, his disciples said to him. "Where do you want to go to eat the Passover so that we may prepare for it." He sent for two of his disciples and said to them. "Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him and where ever he enters tell the house master, "The teachers says (to ask) where is the guest room for me, where I can eat the Passover with my disciples." And he will show you a large upper room which has already been spread out. Prepare for us there." And the disciples went out and came into the city and found what he had told them. And they prepared for the Passover. When evening came he went there with the twelve. They reclined there and were eating. Jesus said to them. "Truly I tell you that one of you will betray me - the one who is eating with me." **They began to grieve** and to say to him one by one "Not I?" And he said to them. "It is one of the twelve, the one dipping into the same dish with me. Indeed what has been written about the son of man will happen to him. But woe to that man through whom the Son of man is

betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born.” And as they were eating, he took a loaf of bread. He blessed it, broke it and gave it to them and said. “Take. This is my body.” And taking a cup, giving thanks, he gave it to them. And they all drank of it. And he said to them. “This is my blood of the covenant which is being shed of many. Truly I tell you I will by no means drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.” And having sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them. “You will all be offended because it has been written “I will strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.” But after I am raised up I will go before you into Galilee.” And Peter said to him. “Even if all men offend you, yet I will not do so.” And Jesus said to him. “Truly I tell you you will do deny me three times this very night before the cock crows three times.” But he said all the more emphatically “Even if I have to die I will by no means deny you.” And all said something similar. They came to a piece of land which was called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples. “Sit Continued here while I pray.” And **he took Peter and James and John with him.** He began to be greatly overcome distressed. He said to them “I am so deeply grieved in my soul that I could die. Remain here and watch. And going forward a little he fell on the ground and prayed that if possible the hour could pass away from him. He said “Abba, Father. All things are possible with you. Remove this cup from me. But it is not a matter of I want but of what you want.” And he came and found them (the three disciples) sleeping. And he said to Peter “Simon are you sleeping?” Could you not watch one hour with me. Watch and pray lest you fall into temptation. Indeed the spirit is eager but the flesh is weak.” And again going away he prayed saying the same thing. And again coming back he found them sleeping for their eyes were heavy. And they did not now what they could answer him. And he came the third time and said to them. “Now you can sleep and rest. It is enough. The hour has come. Behold the Son of man has been betrayed into the hands of sinners.”

### **Crowd Condemns**

14:42 (Jesus said) “Get up let’s go. The one who is betraying me has drawn near.” And immediately, while he was still speaking Judas, one of the twelve arrived. And with him there was **a crowd with swords and clubs.** They had come from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

#### **(i) One betrays**

14:44 Now the one betraying him gave them a signal saying, “**Whomsoever I kiss, that is he.** Seize him and lead him away securely.” And coming he approached him (Jesus) immediately. He said “Rabbi and gave him a kiss.” And they laid hands on him and seized him.

#### **(ii) All Fled**

14:47 But one of those standing by drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Jesus said to them, "You have come forth with swords and clubs to arrest me like a robber. I was with you daily in the temple teaching and you did not seize me. But this is happening now in order that the scriptures may be fulfilled." and leaving him they (his followers) **all fled.**

### **Young man c/f shroud**

14:51 **A certain young man** accompanied him (Jesus). He was clothed **in a nightgown** over his naked body. They grabbed hold of him. And he, leaving the night gown **fled away** naked.

### **Chief priests etc assume Caesar's role**

14:53 And they led Jesus away to the high priest. And **all the chief priests and the elders and scribes** came together. Peter followed him from afar until he was within the court of the high priest. And he was sitting with the attendants and warming himself by the bright fire. Now the chief priests and all the council sought witnesses against Jesus so they could have him put to death. But they did not find any. There were many who witnessed falsely against him. But their testimonies conflicted with each other. There were some who, on standing up witnessed against him falsely saying. “We heard him saying “I will overthrow this shrine constructed by hand and after three days I will build another which is not made by hand.” But their witnessing was not identical. Standing up the high priest questioned Jesus who was in the midst of them saying. “Do you not answer anything that these men testify against you?” But he was silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest questioned him and said to him. “Are you the Christ, the Son of the most high?” And Jesus said “I am And you will see the Son of man at the right hand of Power and coming with

the clouds of heaven." And the high priest ripped his tunic saying. "What more need do we have of witnesses? You heard the blasphemy. How does that appear to you?" **And they all condemned him to be liable to death.** And some of them spat him and covered his face and maltreated him saying to him. "Prophecy!" And the attendants slapping him took him away. While Peter was below in the court one of the maidservants of the high priest came along. Seeing Peter warming himself she looked at him and said "You were with the Nazarene Jesus." But he denied it saying. "I do not know him nor understand what you are saying." And he went outside into the forecourt. And the maidservant on seeing him again began to say to those standing by. "This man is one of them." But he again denied it. And after a little while the ones standing by said to Peter. "Truly you are one of them for you are a Galilaean." And he (Peter) began to curse and swear saying. "I do not know this man you are talking about." And immediately a second time, a cock crew. And Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him. "Before a cock crows twice you will deny me three times." And realising about this he wept.

### **Pilate - Are you King of the Jews?**

15:1 Very early in the morning a council meeting was called consisting of the chief priests, the elders and scribes and all the council members. Jesus had been bound and led away and delivered to Pilate. **Pilate questioned him. "Are you the king of the Jews?"** Answering him He said "You said it." And the chief priests accused him of many things. But Pilate questioned him again saying. "Do you not have anything to answer? Look at how many things they accuse you of." But Jesus answered nothing so that Pilate marvelled. Now at a feast time he used to release to them one prisoner that they requested. There was a prisoner named Barabbas who, with other rebels had been caught after committing murder in the rebellion. The crowd was going up (to the Praetorium) to ask for a prisoner as he (Pilate) had a custom of releasing a prisoner for them. But Pilate answered them saying. "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" He knew that it was because of envy that the chief priests had delivered him. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd so that they would ask that he should release Barabbas to them instead. So Pilate answered them again. "What do you want me to do with the one you call the king of the Jews?" They again cried out. "Crucify him." But Pilate said to them. "Indeed what evil has he done?" And they cried out all the more. "Crucify him." And Pilate, resolving to satisfy the crowd released Barabbas to them. And after having had Jesus scourged he delivered him to be crucified.

### **Cohort of Soldiers - "Hail King of Jews"**

15:16 Then **the soldiers** led him away inside the court which is called the praetorium. They called together **all the cohort.** They put a purple robe around him and plaited a thorny crown. They began to salute him saying. "**Hail, King of the Jews**". They struck his head with a reed (stick) and spat at him. Bending their knees they worshipped him. And after they mocked him they took off the purple robe and put his own garments on him. Then they (some of the soldiers) led him out that they might crucify him.

**Simon of Cyrene - carries cross** 15:21 They co-opted a man called **Simon from Cyrene** who was coming in from the country. He was the father of Alexander and Rufus. They required him to **carry the cross** of (Jesus).

### **Crowd deny "King of Jews" title**

15:22 They brought him to the place of Golgotha. They gave him wine which had been spiced with myrrh but he would not drink it. And they crucified him. They divided his garments, casting a lot on them to determine what they would take. Now it was the third hour and they crucified him. There was a superscription of the accusation about him which was written over him. It said "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two robbers - one on the right and one on the left of him. **The ones passing by** blasphemed him, wagging their heads and saying. "Behold the one who was going to overthrow the shrine and re-build it in three days. Save yourself and come down from the cross." Likewise also **the chief priests** called out mockery to one another and **the scribes** saying, "Others he saved. But he cannot save himself. **If he is Christ the king of Israel, let him come down from the cross** that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also reproached him. And as the sixth hour came darkness came over all the land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a great voice. "Eloi Eloi, lama sabachthani." meaning "My God, My God, why did you forsake me?" Some of the people standing by on hearing this said. "Behold

he is calling for Elias." Running, someone filled a sponge with vinegar and placing it round a stick gave it to him to drink saying. "Wait, let us see if Elias comes to take him down." But Jesus, on crying out with a loud voice, gave up his spirit. And the veil of the shrine was ripped in two from top to bottom. Seeing this the centurion standing opposite him when he had thus expired said. "Truly this man was the son of God." Now there were also women watching from afar, amongst them were both Mary the Magdalene and Mary the mother of James the little and the mother of Joses and Salome. When he was in Galilee they had followed him and served him. There were also many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

### **Joseph - asks for body**

15:42 Now evening was coming. Since it was the day of preparation before the Sabbath, **Joseph from Arimathea** who was an honourable councillor, who was also expecting the kingdom of God, took courage. **He went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.** Pilate wondered if He had already died. Calling to him the centurion he questioned him about how long ago he had died. Then knowing about this from the centurion he granted the corpse to Joseph. He (Joseph) brought a piece of unused linen and taking Him down, he wrapped him in the linen and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of rock. They rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary the Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he had been laid.

**Young man sitting on the right** 16:1 And when the Sabbath was passed Mary the Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome brought spices so that coming they might anoint him (Jesus). And it was very early on the first day of the week when they came upon the tomb - as the sun rose. They said to themselves. "Who will roll away the stone out of the door of the tomb for us?" It was very heavy. Looking up they saw that the stone had already been rolled back. Entering into the tomb **they saw a young man sitting on the right.** He was clothed in a white robe. They were greatly astonished. But he said to them. "Do not be amazed. You are seeking Jesus the Nazarene. After having been crucified, he was raised. He is not here. Look at the place where they put him. But go and tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you into Galilee. You will see him there as he told you."

### **they were afraid**

16:8 And going out they fled from the tomb. They were trembling and bewildered and did not tell anyone anything for **they were afraid.**