



THE GOSPEL OF  
**MARK**

## WEEK 16

APRIL 24-26, 2015

TRYING TIMES

## FRIDAY

APRIL 24, 2015

### READ JAMES 1:1-18 (ESV)

James says to, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds...(James 1:2)" Your joy comes from your relationship with the Lord. Some may wonder how you can be joyful in the midst of trials. The only way it is possible is for you to rely fully upon the Lord and to rest in His grace. Take some time today to think about God's kindness to you, especially in times of trial. Close your time by giving thanks to God in prayer.

## SATURDAY

APRIL 25, 2015

### READ MARK 14:53-15:20 (ESV)

Jesus endured trials of many kinds. There is none as evident as the trials he faced leading up to His crucifixion. As you read Mark's account, did you notice the different perspectives from which Jesus was tried? He was tried by His own people, His friends and the authorities of the day. He was tried physically, emotionally and spiritually. Take some time today to reflect on the lyrics from the hymn "His Eye is on the Sparrow." Then spend some time praising God for His steadfast presence in difficult times.

### HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

*Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,  
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heav'n and home,  
When Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is He;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.*

*"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear,  
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;  
Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.*

*Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,  
When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.*

*Chorus:  
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.*

