

Today's Reading: Mark 14:1-2; Psalm 2:1-3

It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, for they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people."

Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,
"Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us."

Simple Summary (for Parents):

On Wednesday of Holy Week the religious leaders were plotting to kill Jesus. His life and ministry had exposed some of their errors and, as Mark's Gospel later tells us, they were envious of Him (15:10). Jesus had even made the audacious claim (both explicitly and implicitly) to be the divine Son of God. Because the crowds were astonished at Jesus's teaching, the religious leaders had to plot in secret about how to arrest Jesus. However, their hatred and opposition did not catch God by surprise. In places like Psalm 2, Scripture had anticipated the day when kings and leaders would rebel "against the Lord and against his Anointed (Jesus)." God was using their evil actions to fulfill His saving plan.

Discuss:**1. If Jesus taught people the truth about God, why did some people reject Him and even want to kill Him?**

(Remind your children that we often don't want to hear the truth because it exposes our sin. The religious leaders of Israel were also offended that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God.)

2. Today's passage says that the religious leaders were making secret plans to arrest and kill Jesus. Why did they do this in secret?

(Because many of the people who heard Jesus were amazed at His teaching and His power and authority. The leaders were afraid that the people would be angry if they arrested Jesus.)

3. Do you think the secret plans of the religious leaders caught God by surprise?

(No, God knows all things and works all things, including sin and evil, for His good purposes.)

4. Today many people still reject Jesus and don't want to hear the good news of the gospel. Why is that?

(Like the religious leaders of old, many people don't want to hear the truth because it shows them their sin. They don't want Jesus to be the Lord of their life because they think they will be happier if they are in charge.)

5. What should we do when people reject us because we believe in Jesus and His teaching?

(We should remember that God told us to expect this and that He is using this in His good plans for us. Regardless of how people react, we should continue to believe in Jesus and obey what He says.)

Pray:

Ask God to help you follow Jesus, even when others laugh at you or reject you. Pray that He would strengthen your faith when times are difficult.

Sing:

["Man of Sorrows"](#) (See Week 3 Song Sheet for lyrics)