

Refuge City Church — October 11, 2020
“The Gospel of Mark” (Mark 14:27-52)

Introduction

- Last Study

- Jesus has just finished His last Passover with the disciples. Institutes a new covenant in Communion. Judas had gone out to betray Him.
- The time had come for Him to become, by action, the propitiation for our sins.

Scripture Reading (Mark 14:27-52)

Verses 27-28

27 And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ **28** But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”

- Jesus had warned/foretold the 11 what they were about to do in the Upper Room.
 - **John 16:32**, “Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.”
- He points to scripture and it’s prophecy that His disciples would “fall away/scatter [**Zechariah 13:7**]; they would cease to be what they are...followers.
 - **Isaiah 53:6**, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”
- “But after I am raised up...”
 - Jesus always provides us hope in the midst of despair.

Verses 29-31

29 Peter said to him, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.” **30** And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” **31** But he said emphatically, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And they all said the same.

- **Luke 22:31-32**, “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”
 - Jesus intercedes for us, not to alleviate our trial, but that we may be strengthened by it. Only to then use that moment to strengthen others.
 - [**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**, “**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**”]
- How many of us would vehemently affirm we would never abandon Jesus?
- How many of us would swear right now that we would give up our life for Him?

- Whereas Jesus had His eyes set beyond the cross, Peter had his eyes set on the moment.
- **Something to consider:** when we think or proclaim we are beyond sin, we set ourselves up for failure.
 - **1 Corinthians 10:12**, “Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.”
 - **Proverbs 11:2**, “When pride comes, then comes disgrace...”
 - **Proverbs 16:18**, “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”
- Interesting to note that Peter would eventually deny Jesus with as much vigor as he promised he would not.

We need to keep Heaven before us, so we gain proper perspective during our trial moments.

Verses 32-34

32 And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.”
33 And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. **34** And he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.”

- Anyone ever picture Jesus ‘coasting’ through these end-of-life events?
 - “It was supposed to happen this way, so it must’ve been easy.”
 - “Jesus is God after all, so it was no sweat.”
 - **QUOTE:** “So far from sailing serenely through his trials like some superior being unconcerned with this world, he is almost dead with distress.” (Charles Moule)
- “Distressed” and “Troubled” = an emotion of compound bewilderment, fear, uncertainty, and anxiety.
 - The prospect of bearing God’s wrath for the world’s sins and experiencing separation from His father grieved Jesus deeply.
 - **Luke 22:44**, “And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”
 - **Hematidrosis** is a condition caused by severe physical and/or emotional distress. The result is capillary blood vessels that feed sweat glands begin to rupture, and blood can pour out with one’s sweat.
 - In our state of pain, we’re only going to go one of two ways: God or ourselves.

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Verses 35-36

35 And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. **36** And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

- “Fell on the ground” = in His distress; in full dependency to His Father.
- “Prayed, if it were possible” = distress in His humanity.
- “Hour” & “Cup” = what He was about to endure... God’s wrath.
- “Abba” = daddy; intimacy with His Father in the midst of distress.
- “Not my will, but yours” = complete submission, regardless of the means.
 - How often, and appropriately, that we pray to be delivered from troubling circumstances.
 - Yet, do we pray for His will to be done if the answer is “No”?
 - Do we continue in our submission as His servant-child regardless of the answer?
 - Or... do we do what we can to make our own way out, and cloak our disobedience in spiritual ego.
- When Jesus taught His disciples, and us, to pray, He presented us with the following words/outlined prayer:
 - “Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, YOUR WILL BE DONE, on earth as it is in Heaven...” **[Matthew 6]**

Verses 37-42

37 And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? **38** Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” **39** And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. **40** And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. **41** And he came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. **42** Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

- In His time of distress, Jesus relied on His disciples to ‘watch and pray’.
 - **QUOTE:** “Peter, who would die for his master, is not able even to watch with Him.” (John Darby)
 - He asked them to be watchful = to be alert
 - When we’re asked by Jesus to do something, even as ‘simple’ as to pray, we need to be alert/on guard/watch out for any temptation to depart from His will.
 - **[Verse 38]** A clarion call for our life in Christ! Being willing is one thing... to go the distance for Jesus is another.
- 3 times Jesus prayed. 3 times He found His disciples sleeping. 3 times Peter would deny Him.

Verses 43-52

43 And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. **44** Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard.” **45** And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” And he kissed him. **46** And they laid hands on him and seized him. **47** But one of those who stood by drew his

sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. **48** And Jesus said to them, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? **49** Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled.” **50** And they all left him and fled. **51** And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, **52** but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

- Judas knowing where Jesus would be, guided the temple police and Roman soldiers to the garden.
 - Knowingly under the cover of darkness to avoid the crowds and with such a force to deny any attempt by the disciples or Jesus to escape.
- Because some of those that came to arrest Jesus had never seen Him, plus being dark, Judas gives them a sign.
 - He greets Jesus not with just a customary greeting, but does so affectionately.
- We now see Peter’s reaction stemming from proclaiming too much pride, lack of prayer, and now acts out violently.
 - How Jesus words must’ve rung in his ears, **“Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”**

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- “But let the scriptures be fulfilled”
 - **Isaiah 53:3**, “He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”
 - **Zechariah 13:7**, “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me,” declares the Lord of hosts. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered...”
 - How does Mark close out this section... “And they all left Him and fled.”

Response/Conclusion

- We have got to understand that the battles, temptations, and trials we face on a daily basis are ‘spiritual’.
 - **Ephesians 6:11-12**, “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places... **[Verse 18]** praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
- How can you effectively put this in to practice? What needs to change, from your individual perspective, in order to keep Heaven before you?