

Mark Chapter Fourteen (Part Five) – Teaching Notes

Introduction: A key idea in Mark is that Jesus is the servant of God. Today, we hope to discuss the betrayal and arrest of Jesus.

Body:

Read Mark 14:43-52

6. Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane. Judas brings an armed group of people to arrest Jesus. One of the disciples, Peter, cuts one of the men who arrested Jesus. Jesus talks about the hypocrisy of the secret arrest and the necessity of scriptures being fulfilled. Everyone deserted Jesus.

Applications –

- **Judas.** Notice in vss. 43-46 that Judas can be so hurtful. Judas was one of the twelve and the treasurer of Jesus. He was also the one who betrayed the Lord to the religious leaders, and in our text he comes to kiss Jesus, as a sign of who to arrest. On one hand, if Jesus had a Judas in His life, we should not think that we are such discerners of people that we will not have at least one in our lives. But on the other hand, we must not become so paranoid about Judas that we miss out on the joy of living. There is some merit to the idea of living, loving, and laughing every day. *Let's be mindful of Judas being in our lives.* Obviously, we should not allow the devil to use us to be a Judas.

- **Harmony with God's will.** Notice in vss. 43-46 that one's title, seniority, or age is not a necessary indication of being in harmony with God's will. The Jewish religious leaders were wrong, even though they were comprised of the high priests, teachers of the law, and elders. Peter was wrong about cutting the man's ear off, which incidentally Jesus put back on according to Luke 22:51. And of course those who deserted Jesus, including the naked man in vs. 52, were wrong about Jesus. *Let's work on being in harmony with God's will.* At the core of God's will is the need to accept Christ as our savior by faith and then focus our lives on loving God, ourselves, and others. The further we get away from the core issues, the more likely we are to be as religious but as wrong as those in our text.

- **Standing on the Word.** Notice in vs. 49 that in spite of all that was going on, Jesus stood on the Word. When things go wrong in our lives – health, relationships, money, etc. – we must fight the temptation to panic and forsake the Word. If anything, the worst things get, the closer we ought to draw to the Word. *Let's work on standing on the Word of God.* Prayerful study and obedience with the support of others is very helpful in living by this application.

Read Mark 14:53-65

F. Trials and Crucifixion, on Friday. 1. Christ before Caiaphas. Jesus is brought before the high priest, Caiaphas (kya'-a- fass). The witnesses could not agree on anything that Jesus did wrong. Jesus finally admitted that He is the Christ, which led to Him being charged with blasphemy. Those around Him spit at Him and the soldiers beat Him, while Peter follows from a distance.

Applications –

- **The devil's use of people.** Notice in vss. 53-65 how those who were wrong came together to attack Jesus. The Sanhedrin (i.e., high counsel/tribunal of Jewish affairs), the religious leaders, lying witnesses, and spies (i.e., how did they hear about the Temple coming down and being built back up?) all worked to attack Jesus. And then for the people to spit at our Lord and for the soldiers to beat Him all shows how terrible people can be towards the will of God. On one hand, it is sad to see how the devil can get people to work together for wrong and see how hard it is for the Holy Spirit to get us to work together for good (e.g., evangelism, edification, 2014 Campaign, leadership development, etc.). On the other hand, we should brace ourselves for all kinds of trouble, as we draw closer to doing what God is calling us to do. If all of this happened to Jesus, our Lord, we should not think that we are exempt (see Mt. 10:24-25). *Let's be mindful of the devil's pulling people together to do wrong.*

Needless to say, we should not let the devil use us. One of the ways that the devil uses us is by manipulating us into thinking that we are right. We often think we are right because the devil doesn't show us all of the issues at play. He gives us the bits and pieces that he wants to use to recruit and use us in his wickedness.

- **Wisdom and courage.** Notice in vss. 60-62 that Jesus had a time of silence and a time to speak. There is no one size fit all answer here. There are obviously some times that we need to simply be quiet. There is merit to the saying that "Enemies will not believe your explanation, and friends don't need them." However, there also times to speak up and be heard. It is also true that there are consequences to what we do or don't do. Jesus spoke the truth and still ended up being crucified. *Let's seek divine wisdom and courage to do God's will.* Prayerful study and seeking wise counsel can help with wisdom. Our courage is nurtured by the daily dedication of discipleship.

Read Mark 14:66-72

2. Peter's Denial of Jesus. Peter is confronted in the court yard by a servant who recognized him as one who followed Jesus. Peter denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed twice. He remembered that Jesus prophesied such, and he left the court yard weeping bitterly.

Applications –

- **Lessons from Peter.** Notice in vss. 66-72 that several lessons can be learned from Peter. First, even though he was closer than most in vs. 54, he was still too far away from the Lord. We ought not compare ourselves to others as much as we should compare ourselves to God's word. Second, somebody knew who Peter was, and somebody knows who we are. Even if we could fool all of the people all of the time, God always knows who we are, where we have been, and what we have said. We should live accordingly. Third, Peter denied the Lord, and many of us deny Him as well. Even if we never say that words that "I don't know the man," our actions speak louder than our words. When we don't give our best in obeying even basic stuff like studying, serving, giving, loving one another, and following leadership, we act as those who don't love God (see Jn. 14:15; Jm. 4:17). Fourth, Peter wept bitterly over his short comings, and we should weep enough to try to do better next time but also with the realization that God's grace is sufficient. Don't stay in the court yard weeping about what God already knew was going to happen. We should confess our sins, receive His forgiveness, and move on with God's plan for our lives (see I Jn. 1:8-9). *Let's work on living by the lessons learned from Peter.*

Conclusion: Let's work on being servants of God. God has much for those who obey His will.