CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Mark Chapter 14 —

The Betrayal, the Supper, and the Arrest of the King

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Mark Chapter 14 is one of the longest and most moving chapters in the Gospels.

It covers just two days before Jesus' death.

It is full of contrasts.

A woman pours out costly perfume in love.

A disciple sells out his Master for money.

Jesus shares the Passover meal and gives His disciples bread and a cup.

He tells them it is His body and His blood of the new covenant.

In Gethsemane, Jesus prays in deep anguish.

“Yet not what I will, but what You will.”

His closest friends fall asleep.

Judas arrives with a kiss and an armed crowd.

All the disciples run away.

Jesus stands before the religious council.

False witnesses cannot agree.

Then Jesus openly declares who He is.

“I am.”

Meanwhile, in the courtyard below, Peter denies Him three times.

The rooster crows, and Peter weeps.

The chapter shows human weakness at its worst.

But it also shows Jesus' faithfulness at its best.

A note on the people in this chapter:

The leaders who condemned Jesus acted wrongly.

But Scripture teaches that Jesus died for the sins of all people, and that He gave His life willingly.

No group of people should ever be blamed for His death.

The chapter moves through nine movements:

- The Plot to Kill Jesus (verses 1–2).
- The Anointing at Bethany (verses 3–9).
- Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus (verses 10–11).
- The Last Supper (verses 12–26).
- Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial (verses 27–31).
- Jesus Prays in Gethsemane (verses 32–42).
- Jesus Arrested (verses 43–52).
- Jesus Before the Sanhedrin (verses 53–65).
- Peter Denies Jesus (verses 66–72).

The central truth of Mark 14 is:

While people betray, sleep, flee, and deny, Jesus willingly gives His body and blood for many, submits to the Father's will, and declares Himself the Son of God, and His grace is greater than human failure.

I. TWO DAYS BEFORE THE PASSOVER

Mark 14:1 — A Secret Plot

“It was two days before the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and teachers of the law were looking for a way to secretly arrest Jesus and kill Him.”

“Two days before the Passover.”

Passover remembered how God rescued Israel from Egypt.

A lamb was killed, and its blood protected each household.

“And the Festival of Unleavened Bread.”

A week of eating bread made without yeast.

“Looking for a way to secretly arrest Jesus and kill Him.”

The leaders had made up their minds.

They wanted to act in secret.

At the very time Israel remembered the Passover lamb, the true Lamb of God would be sacrificed.

Cross References

Matthew 26:3

> Then the leading priests and older leaders met at the palace of the high priest, Caiaphas.

Luke 22:2

> The leading priests and teachers of the law were trying to find a way to kill Jesus, because they were afraid of the people.

John 11:53

> So from that day on they made plans to kill Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

God's plan unfolds even through the evil plans of people.

Key Truth

Jesus would die at Passover as the true Passover Lamb.

II. NOT DURING THE FESTIVAL

Mark 14:2 — Fear of a Riot

“But they said, “Not during the festival, or the people may riot.””

The leaders were careful.

Jerusalem was full of pilgrims.

Many people liked Jesus.

The leaders feared a riot.

So they planned to wait.

But God's timing was different.

Jesus would die exactly during the feast.

Cross References

Matthew 26:5

They said, “We must not do it during the feast, or the people may cause a riot.”

Luke 22:2

They were afraid of the people.

Psalm 2:1

Why are the nations so angry? Why are the people making useless plans?

Spiritual Principle

People make their plans, but God's plan prevails.

Key Truth

The leaders chose their time, but God had already chosen His.

III. AN ALABASTER JAR

Mark 14:3 — Perfume Poured on His Head

“While Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured it on His head.”

“At the home of Simon the leper.”

Perhaps a man Jesus had healed.

“A woman came.”

John tells us she was Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus.

“With an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard.”

Nard came from a plant grown in India.

It was extremely costly.

“She broke the jar.”

She did not hold any back.

“And poured it on His head.”

Kings were anointed on the head.

She was honoring Jesus as King.

Cross References

Matthew 26:7

> A woman came to Him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume. She poured it on His head while He was eating.

John 12:3

> Mary took about a pint of very expensive perfume made from pure nard. She poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair, and the whole house was filled with the smell.

Luke 7:38

> She stood behind Him at His feet, crying. Her tears wet His feet, and she wiped them with her hair. She kissed His feet and poured perfume on them.

Spiritual Principle

Love for Jesus gives its very best without holding back.

Application

What costly gift of love can you give to Jesus?

IV. WHY THIS WASTE?

Mark 14:4 — Some Were Indignant

“Some of those present were indignant. “Why this waste of perfume?”

“Some of those present were indignant.”

John tells us Judas led the complaint.

“Why this waste of perfume?”

They saw it as foolish.

But what looks like waste to some is worship to God.

Cross References

Matthew 26:8

When the followers saw this, they were upset and said, “Why waste that perfume?”

John 12:4

But Judas Iscariot, one of His followers, the one who would later betray Him, said.

John 12:5

This perfume could have been sold for a year's pay and the money given to the poor.

Spiritual Principle

Nothing given to Jesus in love is wasted.

Spiritual Warning

Be careful of criticizing what others give in worship.

V. A YEAR'S WAGES

Mark 14:5 — They Rebuked Her Harshly

“It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.”

“It could have been sold for more than a year's wages.”

Three hundred denarii.

About a year's pay for a worker.

“And the money given to the poor.”

This sounded good.

But John tells us Judas was a thief who stole from the money bag.

“And they rebuked her harshly.”

They scolded her.

Her act of love was met with criticism.

Cross References

Matthew 26:9

> This perfume could have been sold for a lot of money and given to the poor.

John 12:5

> Why wasn't this perfume sold for a year's wages and the money given to the poor?

Deuteronomy 15:11

> There will always be poor people in the land. So I command you to be generous to your brothers and sisters who are poor and needy.

Spiritual Principle

Criticism can disguise itself as concern for others.

Key Truth

The loudest critic in the room was the one who loved money most.

VI. A BEAUTIFUL THING

Mark 14:6 — Leave Her Alone

“Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing for Me.”

“Leave her alone.”

Jesus defended her.

“Why are you bothering her?”

He stopped the critics.

“She has done a beautiful thing for Me.”

The word means good, noble, lovely.

What they called waste, Jesus called beautiful.

Cross References

Matthew 26:10

> Jesus knew what they were thinking and said, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a good thing for Me.”

John 12:7

> Jesus answered, “Leave her alone. She has saved this for the day of My burial.”

1 Samuel 16:7

> People look at the outside, but the Lord looks at the heart.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus defends those who worship Him with sincere love.

Key Truth

What others criticize, Jesus may call beautiful.

VII. YOU WILL NOT ALWAYS HAVE ME

Mark 14:7 — The Poor Always With You

“The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them anytime you want. But you will not always have Me.”

“The poor you will always have with you.”

Jesus was not saying poverty does not matter.

He was quoting Deuteronomy, which commands generosity to the poor.

“And you can help them anytime you want.”

Caring for the poor is always right.

“But you will not always have Me.”

This was a unique moment.

Jesus would soon die.

She seized the moment to honor Him.

Cross References

Matthew 26:11

> You will always have the poor with you, but you will not always have Me.

John 12:8

> The poor will always be with you, but I will not always be with you.

Deuteronomy 15:11

> There will always be people in need in your land, so open your hand wide to them.

Spiritual Principle

Some moments to honor Jesus come only once.

Key Truth

Caring for the poor and worshiping Jesus are not enemies.

VIII. SHE DID WHAT SHE COULD

Mark 14:8 — Anointed for Burial

“She did what she could—she anointed My body beforehand for burial.”

“She did what she could.”

She did not do everything.

But she did what was in her power.

That is all God asks.

“She anointed My body beforehand for burial.”

Bodies were anointed with spices after death.

She anointed Jesus before His death.

Perhaps she understood more than the disciples about what was coming.

Cross References

Matthew 26:12

> When she poured this perfume on My body, she did it to prepare Me for burial.

John 12:7

> She kept this perfume for the day of My burial.

John 19:40

> They took Jesus' body and wrapped it in strips of linen with the spices, as the Jews did when they buried people.

Spiritual Principle

God asks us to do what we can, not what we cannot.

Application

What can you do for Jesus today?

IX. IN MEMORY OF HER

Mark 14:9 — Told Throughout the World

“Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.””

“Wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world.”

Jesus knew the gospel would spread worldwide.

“What she has done will be told in memory of her.”

And it has been.

Right now, as you read this, Jesus' promise is coming true.

Her simple act of love is remembered everywhere.

Cross References

Matthew 26:13

> Wherever this good news is told in all the world, what this woman has done will be told to remember her.

Matthew 24:14

> This good news about the kingdom will be preached in all the world.

Psalm 112:6

> Good people will always be remembered.

Spiritual Principle

Acts of love for Jesus are remembered forever.

Key Truth

This study is part of the fulfillment of Jesus' promise.

X. JUDAS GOES TO THE CHIEF PRIESTS

Mark 14:10 — One of the Twelve

“Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them.”

“Then Judas Iscariot.”

Right after the woman's act of love comes Judas' act of betrayal.

“One of the Twelve.”

Mark stresses this.

He was a close friend, not an outsider.

“Went to the chief priests to betray Jesus.”

He went on his own.

Luke and John tell us Satan entered him.

Yet Judas made his own choice.

Cross References

Matthew 26:14

> Then one of the twelve followers, Judas Iscariot, went to the leading priests.

Luke 22:4

> Judas went to the leading priests and the soldiers who guarded the temple and talked with them about how he could hand Jesus over to them.

John 13:2

> The devil had already decided that Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, would turn against Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

Being close to Jesus is not the same as truly loving Him.

Spiritual Warning

Betrayal can come from within the circle of friends.

XI. THEY PROMISED MONEY

Mark 14:11 — Watching for an Opportunity

“They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand Him over.”

“They were delighted to hear this.”

Their problem was solved.

“And promised to give him money.”

Matthew tells us it was thirty pieces of silver.

The price of a slave.

“So he watched for an opportunity to hand Him over.”

Judas looked for a quiet time to betray Jesus.

Away from the crowds.

Cross References

Matthew 26:15

> He asked, “What will you pay me for giving Jesus to you?” They gave him thirty silver coins.

Luke 22:5

> They were pleased and agreed to give him money.

Zechariah 11:12

> So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.

Spiritual Principle

Love of money can lead to terrible betrayal.

Spiritual Warning

Judas sold the One who was priceless for the price of a slave.

XII. PREPARING THE PASSOVER

Mark 14:12 — Where Do You Want Us to Go?

“On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, the disciples asked Jesus, “Where do You want us to go and make preparations for You to eat the Passover?””

“When the Passover lamb was sacrificed.”

On this day, thousands of lambs were killed at the temple.

Families ate the Passover meal that evening.

“Where do You want us to go and make preparations?”

The disciples wanted to prepare the meal.

They did not yet know it would be Jesus' last meal with them.

Cross References

Matthew 26:17

> On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the followers came to Jesus and asked, "Where do You want us to prepare the Passover meal for You?"

Luke 22:8

> Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us to eat."

Exodus 12:6

> Keep the animals until the fourteenth day of the month. Then all the people of Israel must kill them at twilight.

Spiritual Principle

God's timing for Jesus' death matched the Passover perfectly.

Key Truth

While lambs were dying in the temple, the Lamb of God was preparing to die.

XIII. A MAN CARRYING A JAR OF WATER

Mark 14:13 — Follow Him

"He sent two of His disciples, saying, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him."

"He sent two of His disciples."

Luke tells us they were Peter and John.

"A man carrying a jar of water will meet you."

This would stand out.

Women usually carried water jars.

A man doing it would be easy to spot.

"Follow him."

Jesus may have arranged this secretly to keep Judas from knowing the place ahead of time.

Cross References

Luke 22:8

> He sent Peter and John to prepare the Passover meal.

Luke 22:10

> When you go into the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house he enters.

Matthew 26:18

> Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, “The Teacher says: My time is near.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus prepares the way for what He calls us to do.

Key Truth

Jesus was in control of every detail of His final night.

XIV. WHERE IS MY GUEST ROOM?

Mark 14:14 — The Teacher Asks

“Say to the owner of the house he enters, ‘The Teacher asks, Where is My guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’”

“The Teacher asks.”

The owner seemed to know who “the Teacher” was.

“Where is My guest room?”

Notice **“My”** guest room.

Jesus spoke with authority.

“Where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?”

Jesus wanted to share this meal with His closest friends.

Cross References

Luke 22:11

> Tell the owner of the house, “The Teacher asks: Where is the room where I can eat the Passover with My followers?”

Matthew 26:18

> I will celebrate the Passover at your house with My followers.

Exodus 12:11

> This is how you must eat it: dressed for travel, with your sandals on and your walking stick in your hand. Eat it quickly. It is the Lord's Passover.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus desires close fellowship with His followers.

Key Truth

Jesus chose to spend His last evening sharing a meal with His friends.

XV. A LARGE UPPER ROOM

Mark 14:15 — Furnished and Ready

“He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.””

“A large room upstairs.”

Many believe this same upper room became the meeting place of the early church.

“Furnished and ready.”

Already prepared with couches for reclining at the table.

“Make preparations for us there.”

The disciples would prepare the food.

Cross References

Luke 22:12

He will show you a large room upstairs that is ready. Prepare the meal there.

Acts 1:13

When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying.

Acts 20:8

There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting.

Spiritual Principle

God provides the places where His people meet with Him.

Key Truth

The upper room was ready because Jesus had made it ready.

XVI. JUST AS HE HAD TOLD THEM

Mark 14:16 — They Prepared the Passover

“The disciples went, found things just as Jesus had told them, and prepared the Passover.”

Everything happened just as Jesus said.

Just like the colt in Chapter 11.

They prepared the lamb, the bread, the wine, and the bitter herbs.

Cross References

Luke 22:13

They went and found everything as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal.

Matthew 26:19

The followers did what Jesus told them and prepared the Passover meal.

Mark 11:4

They went and found a young donkey tied in the street near a door.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' words always prove true.

Key Truth

Obedience to Jesus always finds things as He said.

XVII. WHEN EVENING CAME

Mark 14:17 — With the Twelve

“When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve.”

The Passover meal was eaten after sunset.

Jesus came with all twelve.

Including Judas.

John tells us Jesus loved His own to the end.

Cross References

Matthew 26:20

> In the evening Jesus was sitting at the table with the twelve followers.

Luke 22:14

> When the time came, Jesus and the apostles were sitting at the table.

John 13:1

> Jesus knew His time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. He had always loved His own people in the world, and He loved them to the very end.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus loved His disciples to the very end.

Key Truth

Jesus shared a meal even with the one who would betray Him.

XVIII. ONE OF YOU WILL BETRAY ME

Mark 14:18 — One Eating with Me

“While they were reclining at the table eating, He said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray Me—one who is eating with Me.””

“While they were reclining at the table.”

At Passover, people reclined on couches.

It was a meal of freedom.

“One of you will betray Me.”

A shocking announcement.

“One who is eating with Me.”

Sharing a meal was a sign of friendship and trust.

Betraying someone you ate with was a terrible act.

Cross References

Matthew 26:21

> As they were eating, Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, one of you will turn against Me.”

Luke 22:21

> But the hand of the one who will turn against Me is on the table with Mine.

John 13:21

> After Jesus said this, He was very troubled. He said openly, “I tell you the truth, one of you will turn against Me.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus knows what is in every heart, even at His own table.

Key Truth

Jesus was not surprised by betrayal.

XIX. SURELY NOT I?

Mark 14:19 — One by One

“They were saddened, and one by one they said to Him, “Surely You don't mean me?””

“They were saddened.”

The news hurt them.

“One by one they said to Him, ‘Surely You don't mean me?’”

Each one asked.

Not, “Is it him?”

But, “Is it me?”

They were honest about their own weakness.

Each knew he was capable of failing.

Cross References

Matthew 26:22

> The followers were very sad. Each one began to say, “Surely I am not the one, Lord?”

Luke 22:23

> Then they began to ask each other which one of them would do that.

John 13:22

> The followers looked at each other, not knowing whom He meant.

Spiritual Principle

Humility asks, “Is it I?” before asking, “Is it him?”

Application

Do you examine your own heart before judging others?

XX. ONE WHO DIPS WITH ME

Mark 14:20 — One of the Twelve

““It is one of the Twelve,” He replied, “one who dips bread into the bowl with Me.”

“It is one of the Twelve.”

Not an outsider.

“One who dips bread into the bowl with Me.”

They shared the same dish.

This fulfilled Psalm 41.

A close friend who shared bread would turn against Him.

Cross References

Matthew 26:23

> Jesus answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with Me will turn against Me.”

John 13:26

> Jesus answered, “He is the one I will give this bread to after I dip it.” Then He dipped the bread and gave it to Judas.

Psalm 41:9

> Even my close friend, someone I trusted, who ate my bread, has turned against me.

Spiritual Principle

The pain of betrayal is deepest when it comes from a friend.

Key Truth

Jesus knows the pain of being betrayed by someone close.

XXI. WOE TO THAT MAN

Mark 14:21 — Better Not Born

“The Son of Man will go just as it is written about Him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.””

“The Son of Man will go just as it is written about Him.”

Jesus' death was part of God's plan, foretold in Scripture.

“But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man!”

God's plan does not excuse Judas.

He was still responsible for his choice.

“It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

A terrible warning.

God's sovereignty and human responsibility stand side by side.

Cross References

Matthew 26:24

> The Son of Man will die, as the Scriptures say. But how terrible it will be for the person who hands Him over! It would be better for him if he had never been born.

Luke 22:22

> The Son of Man will do what God has planned, but how terrible it will be for that man who turns against Him.

Psalm 41:9

> My trusted friend who ate with me has turned against me.

Spiritual Principle

God's sovereign plan does not remove human responsibility.

Spiritual Warning

God can use evil choices for good, but those who make them are still accountable.

XXII. THIS IS MY BODY

Mark 14:22 — Take It

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, “Take it; this is My body.””

“Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it.”

The same four actions as the feeding of the crowds.

“Take it; this is My body.”

Jesus gave new meaning to the Passover bread.

His body would be broken for them on the cross.

This became the meal Christians call the **Lord's Supper**, **Communion**, or the **Eucharist**.

Christians understand Jesus' words in different ways.

Some believe the bread becomes Christ's body.

Some believe Christ is truly present in a spiritual way.

Others see the bread as a sacred symbol and memorial of His body.

All agree that Jesus gave His body for us and that this meal is precious.

Cross References

Matthew 26:26

> While they were eating, Jesus took bread, thanked God, broke it, and gave it to His followers. He said, “Take this and eat it. This is My body.”

Luke 22:19

> Jesus took some bread, thanked God for it, broke it, and handed it to them. He said, “This is My body, which I give for you. Do this in memory of Me.”

1 Corinthians 11:24

> He thanked God, broke the bread, and said, “This is My body, given for you. Do this so you will remember Me.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus gave His body for us on the cross.

Key Truth

Every time believers share the bread, they remember the body given for them.

XXIII. THE CUP

Mark 14:23 — They All Drank

“Then He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it.”

“Then He took a cup.”

The Passover meal included several cups of wine.

“Gave thanks.”

The word for giving thanks is where the word **Eucharist** comes from.

“And gave it to them, and they all drank from it.”

All of them.

Even those who would soon run away.

Cross References

Matthew 26:27

> Then Jesus took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to the followers. He said, “Each of you drink some of this.”

Luke 22:20

> In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup.

1 Corinthians 11:25

> In the same way, after they ate, Jesus took the cup.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus offers His grace to all who come to His table.

Key Truth

Even those who would fail Him drank from His cup.

XXIV. MY BLOOD OF THE NEW COVENANT

Mark 14:24 — Poured Out for Many

““This is My blood of the new covenant, poured out for many,” He said to them.”

“This is My blood of the new covenant.”

A **covenant** is a binding agreement between God and His people.

The old covenant at Mount Sinai was sealed with the blood of animals.

Jeremiah promised a new covenant, written on hearts, with sins forgiven.

Jesus' blood would seal that new covenant.

“Poured out for many.”

His death would be for others.

In their place.

For their forgiveness.

Cross References

Matthew 26:28

> This is My blood, which begins the new agreement God makes with His people. It is poured out for many to forgive their sins.

Exodus 24:8

> Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, “This is the blood that seals the agreement the Lord has made with you.”

Jeremiah 31:31

> The Lord says, “The time is coming when I will make a new agreement with the people of Israel and the people of Judah.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' blood seals the new covenant and brings forgiveness of sins.

Key Truth

The new covenant was sealed not with animal blood but with the blood of God's Son.

XXV. UNTIL THAT DAY

Mark 14:25 — New in the Kingdom

““Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.””

“I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine.”

This was Jesus' last meal before His death.

“Until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

A promise of hope.

Jesus looked beyond the cross to a future celebration.

One day He will share a feast with His people in His kingdom.

Every time believers take Communion, they look forward to that day.

Cross References

Matthew 26:29

> I will not drink from this fruit of the vine again until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.

Luke 22:18

> From now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until God's kingdom comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

> Whenever you eat this bread and drink from this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until He returns.

Spiritual Principle

The Lord's Supper looks back to the cross and forward to the kingdom.

Key Truth

Jesus promised a reunion feast in His Father's kingdom.

XXVI. THEY SANG A HYMN

Mark 14:26 — To the Mount of Olives

“When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”

“When they had sung a hymn.”

The Passover meal ended with singing Psalms 113–118.

Jesus sang praise to God on the night before He died.

Imagine Him singing, **“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”**

“They went out to the Mount of Olives.”

Out into the night.

Toward Gethsemane.

Cross References

Matthew 26:30

> After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Luke 22:39

> Jesus left the city and went to the Mount of Olives, as He often did, and His followers went with Him.

Psalm 118:26

> Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Spiritual Principle

Worship can rise even in the darkest night.

Key Truth

Jesus sang praises on His way to suffering.

XXVII. YOU WILL ALL FALL AWAY

Mark 14:27 — The Shepherd Struck

““You will all fall away,” Jesus told them, “for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’””

“You will all fall away.”

Not just Judas.

All of them.

“For it is written.”

Jesus quoted Zechariah 13.

“I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.”

When the Shepherd was struck down, His followers would run.

Notice: **“I will strike.”**

God Himself was behind the striking.

The cross was God's plan to save.

Cross References

Matthew 26:31

> Jesus told His followers, “Tonight you will all stumble because of Me. The Scriptures say, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will scatter.’”

Zechariah 13:7

> Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will scatter.

John 16:32

> The time is coming, and is already here, when you will be scattered, each one to his own home, and you will leave Me alone. But I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus knew His followers would fail Him, and He loved them anyway.

Key Truth

The Shepherd was struck so that the sheep could be saved.

XXVIII. I WILL GO AHEAD OF YOU

Mark 14:28 — After I Have Risen

“But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.””

“But after I have risen.”

Right after predicting their failure, Jesus gave a promise.

He would rise.

“I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

He would meet them again.

Like a shepherd gathering scattered sheep.

Their failure would not be the end of the story.

Cross References

Matthew 26:32

> But after I rise from the dead, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.

Mark 16:7

> Go and tell His followers and Peter, “He is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see Him there.”

Matthew 28:7

> Go quickly and tell His followers, “He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' grace is greater than our failures.

Key Truth

Before they failed, Jesus had already planned to restore them.

XXIX. EVEN IF ALL FALL AWAY

Mark 14:29 — Peter's Boast

“Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not.””

Peter was confident.

Too confident.

He compared himself to the others.

He thought he was stronger.

But pride comes before a fall.

Cross References

Matthew 26:33

Peter said, “Even if everyone else stumbles because of You, I never will.”

Luke 22:33

But Peter said, “Lord, I am ready to go with You to prison and even to die with You!”

John 13:37

Peter asked, “Lord, why can't I follow You now? I am ready to give my life for You!”

Spiritual Principle

Self-confidence is a poor substitute for dependence on God.

Spiritual Warning

Be careful when you think you are stronger than others.

XXX. BEFORE THE ROOSTER CROWS TWICE

Mark 14:30 — Three Denials

““Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown Me three times.””

“Today—yes, tonight.”

Very soon.

“Before the rooster crows twice.”

Only Mark mentions the rooster crowing twice.

This detail likely came from Peter himself.

“You yourself will disown Me three times.”

Not once.

Three times.

The one who claimed to be strongest would fail most openly.

Cross References

Matthew 26:34

> Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, tonight before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you do not know Me.”

Luke 22:34

> But Jesus said, “Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will say three times that you do not know Me.”

John 13:38

> Jesus answered, “Will you really give your life for Me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you do not know Me.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus knows our weaknesses better than we do.

Key Truth

Jesus knew Peter would fail, and still chose him.

XXXI. I WILL NEVER DISOWN YOU

Mark 14:31 — All Said the Same

“But Peter insisted emphatically, “Even if I have to die with You, I will never disown You.” And all the others said the same.”

“But Peter insisted emphatically.”

He argued with Jesus.

“Even if I have to die with You, I will never disown You.”

He meant it.

But he did not know his own heart.

“And all the others said the same.”

All of them promised.

All of them would fail.

Cross References

Matthew 26:35

> But Peter said, “Even if I have to die with You, I will never say I do not know You!” And all the other followers said the same thing.

Luke 22:33

> Lord, I am ready to go to prison and to die with You.

John 13:37

> I would die for You!

Spiritual Principle

Good intentions are not enough without God's strength.

Key Truth

Sincere promises can still be broken by weak hearts.

XXXII. GETHSEMANE

Mark 14:32 — Sit Here While I Pray

“They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to His disciples, “Sit here while I pray.””

“A place called Gethsemane.”

Gethsemane means “oil press.”

It was an olive garden on the Mount of Olives.

Olives were crushed there to make oil.

And there, Jesus would be crushed in sorrow.

“Sit here while I pray.”

Jesus went to pray before the greatest trial of His life.

Cross References

Matthew 26:36

> Then Jesus went with His followers to a place called Gethsemane. He said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”

Luke 22:40

> When He reached the place, He said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.”

John 18:1

> After Jesus finished praying, He went with His followers across the Kidron Valley. There was a garden there.

Spiritual Principle

In the hardest moments, Jesus turned to prayer.

Application

Where do you turn first when you face great trials?

XXXIII. DEEPLY TROUBLED

Mark 14:33 — Peter, James, and John

“He took Peter, James, and John along with Him, and He began to be deeply troubled and distressed.”

“He took Peter, James, and John along with Him.”

The same three who saw His glory on the mountain.

Now they would see His agony in the garden.

“He began to be deeply troubled and distressed.”

Strong words.

Jesus was overwhelmed with horror and anguish.

He was about to bear the sin of the world.

Cross References

Matthew 26:37

> He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with Him, and He began to be very sad and troubled.

Luke 22:44

> Being in great pain, He prayed even harder. His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Hebrews 5:7

> While Jesus lived on earth, He prayed to God, who could save Him from death. He prayed with loud cries and tears, and God heard Him because of His deep respect for God.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus felt the full weight of what He was about to bear.

Key Truth

Jesus' suffering began in the garden before it reached the cross.

XXXIV. OVERWHELMED WITH SORROW

Mark 14:34 — Stay Here and Keep Watch

““My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” He said. “Stay here and keep watch.””

“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.”

Jesus' sorrow was so heavy it felt like it could kill Him.

He shared His heart honestly.

“Stay here and keep watch.”

He asked His friends to stay awake with Him.

In His humanity, He wanted their company.

Cross References

Matthew 26:38

> He said to them, “My heart is so sad that I feel like I am dying. Stay here and watch with Me.”

Psalm 42:5

> Why am I so sad? Why am I so upset? I should put my hope in God.

John 12:27

> Now My heart is troubled. Should I say, “Father, save Me from this hour”? No, this is the very reason I came.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus understands deep sorrow and the need for companionship.

Key Truth

Jesus knows what it feels like to be overwhelmed.

XXXV. HE FELL TO THE GROUND

Mark 14:35 — If Possible

“Going a little farther, He fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from Him.”

“Going a little farther.”

Jesus went on alone.

“He fell to the ground.”

Not kneeling politely.

Falling down in anguish.

“And prayed that if possible the hour might pass from Him.”

The hour meant His suffering and death.

Jesus honestly asked if there was another way.

Cross References

Matthew 26:39

> He walked a little farther, fell face down on the ground, and prayed.

Luke 22:41

> He went about a stone's throw away from them, knelt down, and prayed.

Hebrews 5:7

> Jesus prayed with loud cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death.

Spiritual Principle

It is right to bring our deepest fears honestly to God.

Key Truth

Jesus' prayer was honest before it was surrendered.

XXXVI. ABBA, FATHER

Mark 14:36 — Not What I Will

““Abba, Father,” He said, “everything is possible for You. Take this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will.””

“Abba, Father.”

Abba is an Aramaic word for father.

It speaks of close, trusting love.

Only Mark records Jesus using it here.

“Everything is possible for You.”

Jesus believed in the Father's power.

“Take this cup from Me.”

The cup was the cup of suffering and God's judgment on sin.

“Yet not what I will, but what You will.”

This is the greatest prayer of surrender ever prayed.

Jesus chose the Father's will over His own desire.

Because of this prayer, we are saved.

Cross References

Matthew 26:39

> He prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, do not give Me this cup of suffering. But do what You want, not what I want.”

Luke 22:42

> He prayed, “Father, if You are willing, take this cup away from Me. But do what You want, not what I want.”

Romans 8:15

> God did not give you a Spirit that makes you fearful slaves again. He gave you the Spirit who makes you His children, so we call out to Him, “Abba, Father.”

Spiritual Principle

True prayer ends in surrender to the Father's will.

Application

Can you pray, “Not what I will, but what You will”?

XXXVII. COULDN'T YOU KEEP WATCH?

Mark 14:37 — Found Sleeping

“Then He returned to His disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” He said to Peter, “are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour?””

“Then He returned to His disciples and found them sleeping.”

In His greatest need, His friends slept.

“Simon.”

Jesus used his old name.

Not Peter, the rock.

“Are you asleep?”

Peter, who had promised to die with Jesus, could not stay awake.

“Couldn't you keep watch for one hour?”

Remember Jesus' teaching in Chapter 13: **“Do not let Him find you sleeping.”**

Cross References

Matthew 26:40

> Then Jesus went back to His followers and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “You men could not stay awake with Me for one hour?”

Luke 22:45

> When He finished praying, He went to His followers and found them asleep because of their sadness.

1 Thessalonians 5:6

> So we should not be sleeping like others, but we should be awake and have self-control.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual alertness requires effort and God's help.

Key Truth

The man who promised to die for Jesus could not stay awake for Him.

XXXVIII. THE SPIRIT IS WILLING

Mark 14:38 — Watch and Pray

“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

“Watch and pray.”

Two keys to resisting temptation.

Stay alert.

Depend on God.

“So that you will not fall into temptation.”

Temptation was coming that night.

“The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Jesus understood their struggle.

They wanted to do right.

But human weakness pulled them down.

This is the struggle of every believer.

Cross References

Matthew 26:41

> Stay awake and pray for strength against temptation. The spirit wants to do what is right, but the body is weak.

Galatians 5:17

> Our sinful nature pulls one way and the Spirit pulls the other. They fight against each other.

Romans 7:18

> I know my sinful nature has nothing good in it. I want to do right, but I cannot seem to carry it out.

Spiritual Principle

Watchfulness and prayer are our defense against temptation.

Key Truth

Jesus understands the gap between what we want to do and what we actually do.

XXXIX. THE SAME PRAYER AGAIN

Mark 14:39 — He Prayed Again

“Once more He went away and prayed the same thing.”

Jesus prayed again.

The same prayer.

This was not empty repetition.

It was the struggle of a soul surrendering again and again to the Father's will.

Sometimes surrender is not a single moment.

It is a battle fought more than once.

Cross References

Matthew 26:42

> Then Jesus went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, then do what You want.”

Luke 22:42

> Father, not My will, but Yours be done.

Hebrews 5:7

> He prayed with loud cries and tears.

Spiritual Principle

Surrender to God's will may require repeated prayer.

Key Truth

It is not wrong to pray the same prayer more than once.

XL. THEIR EYES WERE HEAVY

Mark 14:40 — They Did Not Know What to Say

“When He came back, He again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to Him.”

“He again found them sleeping.”

A second time.

“Because their eyes were heavy.”

It was late.

They were exhausted and grieving.

“They did not know what to say to Him.”

They were ashamed.

Just like Peter on the mountain of Transfiguration.

Cross References

Matthew 26:43

> He went back and found them asleep again, because their eyes were heavy.

Luke 22:45

> He found them sleeping, exhausted from sorrow.

John 18:1

> There was a garden there, and Jesus and His followers went into it.

Spiritual Principle

Human weakness repeatedly fails, but Jesus remains faithful.

Key Truth

The disciples kept falling asleep; Jesus kept praying.

XLI. THE HOUR HAS COME

Mark 14:41 — Delivered to Sinners

“Returning the third time, He said, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners.””

“Returning the third time.”

Three times Jesus prayed.

Three times they slept.

“Enough! The hour has come.”

The time for prayer was over.

The time for the cross had begun.

“The Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners.”

Jesus was ready.

He had prayed through.

Cross References

Matthew 26:45

> Then He came back and said, “Are you still sleeping and resting? The time has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to sinners.”

Luke 22:47

> While Jesus was speaking, a crowd came up.

John 17:1

> Jesus looked toward heaven and prayed, “Father, the time has come. Give glory to Your Son so that the Son can give glory to You.”

Spiritual Principle

Prayer prepared Jesus to face the cross with courage.

Key Truth

Jesus came out of Gethsemane ready; His disciples came out unprepared.

XLII. RISE! LET US GO!

Mark 14:42 — Here Comes My Betrayer

“Rise! Let us go! Here comes My betrayer!””

“Rise! Let us go!”

Jesus did not run away.

He went forward to meet His enemies.

“Here comes My betrayer!”

Jesus saw Judas coming.

He faced it head-on.

Cross References

Matthew 26:46

Get up, let us go. Here comes the man who has turned against Me.

Luke 22:47

Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them.

John 18:2

Judas knew where this place was, because Jesus often met there with His followers.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus willingly went to meet His suffering.

Key Truth

Jesus was not captured; He gave Himself up.

XLIII. SWORDS AND CLUBS

Mark 14:43 — Judas Appeared

"Just as He was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders."

"Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared."

Mark repeats it again: **one of the Twelve.**

"With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs."

An armed mob for a man of peace.

"Sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders."

The leaders had sent them.

Cross References

Matthew 26:47

> While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came up with a large crowd carrying swords and clubs.

Luke 22:47

> While He was still speaking, a crowd came up, led by Judas.

John 18:3

> So Judas came there with a group of soldiers and some guards from the leading priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns, and weapons.

Spiritual Principle

Evil often comes armed against the innocent.

Key Truth

They came with weapons against the Prince of Peace.

XLIV. A SIGNAL

Mark 14:44 — The One I Kiss

“Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest Him and lead Him away under guard.””

“The one I kiss is the man.”

A kiss was a normal greeting between a student and his teacher.

Judas turned a sign of love into a tool of betrayal.

“Arrest Him and lead Him away under guard.”

He made sure they would not let Him escape.

Cross References

Matthew 26:48

> Judas had planned to give them a signal: “The man I kiss is Jesus. Arrest Him.”

Luke 22:47

He came close to Jesus to kiss Him.

2 Samuel 20:9

Joab said to Amasa, “How are you, my brother?” Then he took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him.

Spiritual Principle

Hypocrisy can disguise betrayal as love.

Spiritual Warning

A kiss can hide a knife.

XLV. RABBI!

Mark 14:45 — The Kiss

“Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed Him.”

“Judas said, ‘Rabbi!’”

Teacher.

A respectful title.

“And kissed Him.”

The word suggests a warm, lingering kiss.

The greatest act of betrayal was disguised as the warmest greeting.

Cross References

Matthew 26:49

At once Judas went to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Teacher!” and kissed Him.

Luke 22:47

Judas came near Jesus to kiss Him.

Proverbs 27:6

The wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Spiritual Principle

Outward signs of love mean nothing without a loyal heart.

Key Truth

Judas kissed the face of the One he had sold.

XLVI. ARRESTED

Mark 14:46 — They Seized Him

“The men seized Jesus and arrested Him.”

They grabbed Jesus.

He did not resist.

The One who calmed storms and drove out demons allowed Himself to be taken.

He could have stopped them.

But He chose not to.

Cross References

Matthew 26:50

> Then the men came and grabbed Jesus and arrested Him.

Luke 22:54

> They arrested Jesus, led Him away, and brought Him into the house of the high priest.

John 18:12

> Then the soldiers, their commander, and the Jewish guards arrested Jesus and tied Him up.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' arrest shows His willing surrender, not His weakness.

Key Truth

No one took Jesus' life; He laid it down.

XLVII. A SWORD DRAWN

Mark 14:47 — A Servant's Ear

“Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.”

“One of those standing near drew his sword.”

John tells us it was Peter.

“And struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.”

Peter tried to defend Jesus by force.

Luke tells us Jesus healed the man's ear.

Even in His arrest, Jesus showed mercy to an enemy.

Cross References

Matthew 26:51

> One of Jesus' followers reached for his sword, pulled it out, and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

Luke 22:50

> One of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

John 18:10

> Simon Peter had a sword. He pulled it out and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' kingdom does not advance by the sword.

Key Truth

Peter used a sword; Jesus used mercy.

XLVIII. AM I LEADING A REBELLION?

Mark 14:48 — Swords and Clubs

““Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture Me?””

Jesus questioned their methods.

He was not a violent rebel.

He had taught openly.

Yet they came at night with weapons, as if He were a dangerous criminal.

Cross References

Matthew 26:55

> Then Jesus said to the crowd, “You came to get Me with swords and clubs as if I were a criminal.”

Luke 22:52

> Am I a criminal that you come with swords and clubs?

John 18:20

> Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to everyone. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple. I said nothing in secret.”

Spiritual Principle

Truth works in the open; evil hides in darkness.

Key Truth

They treated the Prince of Peace like a violent rebel.

XLIX. THE SCRIPTURES MUST BE FULFILLED

Mark 14:49 — Every Day in the Temple

“Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.””

“Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts.”

They had many chances to arrest Him in public.

“And you did not arrest Me.”

They were afraid of the crowds.

“But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.”

This was happening according to God's word.

Jesus saw God's plan at work even in His arrest.

Cross References

Matthew 26:56

> All this happened so that what the prophets wrote would come true.

Luke 22:53

> Every day I was with you in the temple, and you did not arrest Me there. But this is your hour, when darkness rules.

Luke 24:44

> Everything written about Me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms had to come true.

Spiritual Principle

God's word is fulfilled even through the actions of His enemies.

Key Truth

The darkest night was still under God's control.

L. EVERYONE DESERTED HIM

Mark 14:50 — They Fled

“Then everyone deserted Him and fled.”

A short, painful verse.

Everyone.

All the disciples who had promised to die with Him.

They ran away.

Exactly as Jesus had said.

The Shepherd was struck, and the sheep were scattered.

Cross References

Matthew 26:56

> Then all of Jesus' followers left Him and ran away.

John 16:32

> You will be scattered, each going home, and you will leave Me all alone.

Zechariah 13:7

> Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus faced His suffering alone so that we would never be alone.

Key Truth

Everyone left Jesus, so that Jesus would never leave us.

LI. A YOUNG MAN IN A LINEN GARMENT

Mark 14:51 — Following Jesus

“A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him,”

Only Mark tells this strange story.

Who was this young man?

Mark does not say.

Many Bible students think it may have been Mark himself.

Perhaps the Last Supper was in his family's home.

If so, this is Mark's quiet way of saying, “I was there too.”

Cross References

Genesis 39:12

> She grabbed his coat and said, “Come to bed with me!” But Joseph left his coat in her hand and ran out of the house.

Amos 2:16

> On that day even the bravest soldiers will run away naked.

Mark 16:5

> As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side.

Spiritual Principle

Everyone, even the bravest follower, failed Jesus that night.

Key Truth

Mark may be humbly telling us he too ran away.

LII. HE FLED NAKED

Mark 14:52 — Leaving His Garment Behind

“he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.”

He escaped by leaving his clothing.

It was a picture of shame and complete abandonment.

Not one follower stayed.

The prophet Amos had said even the brave would flee naked in that day.

Cross References

Genesis 39:12

> Joseph ran out of the house, leaving his coat behind.

Job 1:21

> I had nothing when I was born, and I will have nothing when I die.

Mark 16:5

> They saw a young man wearing a white robe.

Spiritual Principle

When fear takes over, people will leave everything behind.

Key Truth

The one who fled in shame may later have written this Gospel by God's grace.

LIII. TO THE HIGH PRIEST

Mark 14:53 — The Council Gathered

“They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders, and teachers of the law came together.”

“They took Jesus to the high priest.”

His name was Caiaphas.

“All the chief priests, elders, and teachers of the law came together.”

This was the **Sanhedrin**, the highest Jewish council.

It was meeting at night.

This was unusual and probably against their own rules.

The trial was rushed and unfair.

Cross References

Matthew 26:57

> Those who arrested Jesus led Him to the house of Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of the law and older leaders had gathered.

Luke 22:54

> They arrested Jesus and brought Him into the high priest's house.

John 18:24

> Then Annas sent Jesus, still tied, to Caiaphas the high priest.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus submitted even to an unjust trial.

Key Truth

The Judge of all the earth stood trial before human judges.

LIV. AT A DISTANCE

Mark 14:54 — Peter in the Courtyard

“Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.”

“Peter followed Him at a distance.”

Peter had not completely given up.

He followed.

But from a distance.

“Right into the courtyard of the high priest.”

He took a risk.

“There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.”

He sat with Jesus' enemies.

Following at a distance often leads to sitting with the wrong crowd.

Cross References

Matthew 26:58

> Peter followed far behind to the courtyard of the high priest. He went in and sat with the guards to see what would happen.

Luke 22:55

> They started a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat together. Peter sat with them.

John 18:18

> It was cold, so the servants and guards had made a fire and were standing around it to warm themselves. Peter was standing with them.

Spiritual Principle

Following Jesus at a distance makes us vulnerable to falling.

Spiritual Warning

Distance from Jesus often leads to closeness with the world.

LV. LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE

Mark 14:55 — They Found None

“The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so they could put Him to death, but they did not find any.”

“Looking for evidence against Jesus so they could put Him to death.”

The verdict was decided first.

They searched for evidence afterward.

“But they did not find any.”

Jesus was innocent.

No real charge could be found.

Cross References

Matthew 26:59

> The leading priests and the whole council tried to find something false against Jesus so they could kill Him.

Psalm 35:11

> Cruel witnesses come forward. They ask me about things I know nothing about.

Psalm 27:12

> False witnesses have risen against me, breathing out violence.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus was completely innocent.

Key Truth

The sinless One was condemned without a single true charge.

LVI. FALSE TESTIMONY

Mark 14:56 — Their Statements Did Not Agree

“Many testified falsely against Him, but their statements did not agree.”

Many lied.

But their stories did not match.

God's law required two or three witnesses to agree.

The trial fell apart under its own lies.

Cross References

Matthew 26:60

> Many people came forward and lied about Him, but the council could find no real reason to kill Him.

Psalm 35:11

> Lying witnesses stand up against me.

Psalm 27:12

> People lie about me and threaten me with violence.

Spiritual Principle

Lies cannot stand against the truth.

Key Truth

The false witnesses could not even agree with each other.

LVII. SOME STOOD UP

Mark 14:57 — False Testimony

“Then some stood up and gave this false testimony:”

More witnesses came.

They also lied.

They twisted something Jesus had said.

Cross References

Matthew 26:60

> Finally two people came forward.

Psalm 27:12

> False witnesses rise up against me.

Deuteronomy 19:15

> One witness is not enough to accuse someone. Every matter must be proven by two or three witnesses.

Spiritual Principle

Twisting someone's words is a form of lying.

Key Truth

Half-truths can be as dangerous as lies.

LVIII. I WILL DESTROY THIS TEMPLE

Mark 14:58 — A Twisted Quote

““We heard Him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’””

They twisted Jesus' words.

John tells us Jesus had said, **“Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”**

He was speaking of His body.

His body would be destroyed and raised in three days.

The irony is that their false charge was pointing to the truth.

Jesus would be killed and rise again.

Cross References

Matthew 26:61

> This man said, “I can destroy the temple of God and build it again in three days.”

John 2:19

> Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up again in three days.”

John 2:21

> But the temple Jesus meant was His own body.

Spiritual Principle

Even false accusations cannot stop God's truth.

Key Truth

They accused Jesus of something He was actually about to do: rise again in three days.

LIX. STILL NO AGREEMENT

Mark 14:59 — Their Testimony Did Not Agree

“Yet even then their testimony did not agree.”

Again, the witnesses contradicted each other.

The case against Jesus had no legal basis.

Everything was falling apart.

Cross References

Matthew 26:60

> But they found nothing.

Deuteronomy 19:15

A matter must be proven by two or three witnesses.

Psalm 35:11

Wicked witnesses accuse me of things I know nothing about.

Spiritual Principle

God's truth stands even when people try to tear it down.

Key Truth

The case against Jesus collapsed because He was innocent.

LX. ARE YOU NOT GOING TO ANSWER?

Mark 14:60 — The High Priest Stands

“Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are You not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against You?””

The high priest was frustrated.

He stood up.

He tried to get Jesus to speak.

Perhaps Jesus would say something they could use.

Cross References

Matthew 26:62

Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, “Aren't You going to answer?”

Isaiah 53:7

He was beaten down and punished, but He did not open His mouth. He was like a lamb led to be killed.

Mark 15:5

But Jesus still did not answer, and Pilate was amazed.

Spiritual Principle

Sometimes silence is the strongest answer.

Key Truth

Jesus did not need to defend Himself against lies.

LXI. HE REMAINED SILENT

Mark 14:61 — Are You the Messiah?

“But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked Him, “Are You the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?””

“But Jesus remained silent.”

Like a lamb before its shearers.

Isaiah 53 was being fulfilled.

“Are You the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

The high priest asked directly.

The Blessed One was a respectful way of saying God.

This was the central question.

Cross References

Matthew 26:63

> But Jesus said nothing. The high priest said, “I command You by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God.”

Isaiah 53:7

> Like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, He did not open His mouth.

Luke 22:67

> They said, “If You are the Christ, tell us.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus fulfilled Scripture even in His silence.

Key Truth

The Lamb of God was silent before His accusers.

LXII. I AM

Mark 14:62 — The Son of Man Coming

““I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.””

“I am.”

For the first time in Mark, Jesus openly declared He was the Messiah.

And He used the words **“I am,”** the name of God.

“And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One.”

Jesus combined Psalm 110 and Daniel 7.

He would sit beside God in power.

“And coming on the clouds of heaven.”

He would return as Judge.

The prisoner was telling His judges that one day they would stand before Him.

Cross References

Daniel 7:13

> I saw someone like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven.

Psalm 110:1

> The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right side.”

Matthew 26:64

> Jesus answered, “You have said it. But I tell you, in the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right side of God and coming on the clouds.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus openly declared Himself the Messiah and Son of God.

Key Truth

The One on trial is the Judge of all.

LXIII. HE TORE HIS CLOTHES

Mark 14:63 — No More Witnesses Needed

“The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked.”

“The high priest tore his clothes.”

This was a sign of grief and outrage.

It showed he considered Jesus' words blasphemy.

“Why do we need any more witnesses?”

Jesus' own words became the charge.

The high priest got what he wanted.

Cross References

Matthew 26:65

> When the high priest heard this, he tore his clothes and said, “He has spoken against God! We don't need any more witnesses.”

Leviticus 21:10

> The high priest must not let his hair be uncombed or tear his clothes.

Acts 14:14

> When Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran into the crowd.

Spiritual Principle

Truth spoken plainly will be rejected by hardened hearts.

Key Truth

Jesus was condemned for telling the truth about who He is.

LXIV. WORTHY OF DEATH

Mark 14:64 — Condemned

““You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” They all condemned Him as worthy of death.”

“You have heard the blasphemy.”

They believed Jesus had dishonored God.

But He had only spoken the truth.

“They all condemned Him as worthy of death.”

The verdict was death.

The only One who never deserved death was condemned to die.

And He accepted it, so that we who deserve death could live.

Cross References

Matthew 26:66

> What do you think? They answered, “He deserves to die.”

Leviticus 24:16

> Anyone who speaks against the name of the Lord must be put to death.

Luke 22:71

> Then they said, “Why do we need any more witnesses? We heard it from His own mouth.”

Spiritual Principle

The innocent One was condemned so the guilty could go free.

Key Truth

Jesus was condemned in our place.

LXV. PROPHESY!

Mark 14:65 — Spit On and Beaten

“Then some began to spit at Him; they blindfolded Him, struck Him with their fists, and said, “Prophesy!” And the guards took Him and beat Him.”

“Then some began to spit at Him.”

A sign of complete contempt.

“They blindfolded Him, struck Him with their fists, and said, ‘Prophesy!’”

They mocked Him as a false prophet.

They demanded He tell who hit Him.

“And the guards took Him and beat Him.”

Jesus endured it all in silence.

Ironically, at that very moment, His prophecy about Peter was coming true.

Cross References

Matthew 26:67

> Then they spit in His face and hit Him with their fists. Others slapped Him.

Isaiah 50:6

> I let them beat my back and pull out my beard. I did not hide my face from their insults and spitting.

Luke 22:64

> They blindfolded Him and said, “Prove You are a prophet! Who hit You?”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus endured shame and abuse for our sake.

Key Truth

While they mocked Him as a false prophet, His prophecy about Peter was being fulfilled.

LXVI. A SERVANT GIRL

Mark 14:66 — Below in the Courtyard

“While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by.”

“While Peter was below in the courtyard.”

Mark shifts the scene.

Upstairs, Jesus confessed the truth.

Downstairs, Peter was about to deny it.

“One of the servant girls of the high priest came by.”

Not a soldier.

Not a leader.

A servant girl.

Cross References

Matthew 26:69

> Peter was sitting in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him.

Luke 22:56

> A servant girl saw Peter sitting by the fire.

John 18:17

> The girl at the door said to Peter, “Aren't you also one of that man's followers?”

Spiritual Principle

Temptation often comes in unexpected and small ways.

Key Truth

Jesus confessed upstairs while Peter denied downstairs.

LXVII. YOU WERE WITH JESUS

Mark 14:67 — She Looked Closely

“When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. “You also were with Jesus of Nazareth,” she said.”

“When she saw Peter warming himself.”

In the firelight, his face could be seen.

“She looked closely at him.”

She recognized him.

“You also were with Jesus of Nazareth.”

It was true.

What a wonderful thing to be said about someone.

But for Peter, in that moment, it was terrifying.

Cross References

Matthew 26:69

> She said, “You also were with Jesus of Galilee.”

Luke 22:56

> She looked closely at him and said, “This man was also with Him.”

John 18:17

> Aren't you one of His followers?

Spiritual Principle

Being known as someone who has been with Jesus is a high honor.

Application

Can people tell that you have been with Jesus?

LXVIII. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT

Mark 14:68 — The First Denial

“But he denied it. “I don't know or understand what you're talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway.”

“But he denied it.”

The first denial.

“I don't know or understand what you're talking about.”

He pretended to be confused.

“And went out into the entryway.”

He tried to get away from the light.

Some ancient copies add that a rooster crowed at this point.

Cross References

Matthew 26:70

> But Peter said in front of everyone, “I don't know what you are talking about.”

Luke 22:57

> But Peter denied it: “Woman, I don't know Him.”

John 18:17

> Peter answered, “No, I am not.”

Spiritual Principle

Fear can make us deny what we love most.

Spiritual Warning

The first step away from Jesus makes the next one easier.

LXIX. THIS FELLOW IS ONE OF THEM

Mark 14:69 — The Girl Spoke Again

“When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.””

The girl would not let it go.

Now she told the others.

The pressure grew.

Cross References

Matthew 26:71

> When he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

Luke 22:58

> A little later someone else saw him and said, “You are one of them too.”

John 18:25

> They asked him, “Aren't you also one of His followers?”

Spiritual Principle

Pressure to deny Jesus often grows when we give in the first time.

Key Truth

One compromise invites the next challenge.

LXX. YOU ARE A GALILEAN

Mark 14:70 — The Second Denial

“Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.””

“Again he denied it.”

The second denial.

“Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.”

Matthew tells us his accent gave him away.

People from Galilee spoke differently.

He could not hide where he came from.

Cross References

Matthew 26:73

> Those standing there said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them. The way you talk gives you away.”

Luke 22:59

> About an hour later, another man insisted, “Certainly this man was with Him, because he is from Galilee.”

John 18:26

> One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, “Didn't I see you with Him in the garden?”

Spiritual Principle

Our lives give away whom we belong to.

Key Truth

Peter could not hide that he had been with Jesus.

LXXI. CALLING DOWN CURSES

Mark 14:71 — The Third Denial

“He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don't know this man you're talking about.””

“He began to call down curses.”

Peter called curses on himself if he was lying.

“And he swore to them.”

He took an oath.

“I don't know this man you're talking about.”

He would not even say Jesus' name.

“This man.”

The third and worst denial.

Cross References

Matthew 26:74

> Then Peter began to curse and swear, “I don't know the man!” Right away a rooster crowed.

Luke 22:60

> Peter said, “Man, I don't know what you are talking about!” At once, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed.

John 18:27

> Again Peter said it wasn't true. At that moment a rooster crowed.

Spiritual Principle

Even strong believers can fall terribly when they trust their own strength.

Spiritual Warning

The man who said he would die for Jesus now would not even say His name.

LXXII. HE BROKE DOWN AND WEPT

Mark 14:72 — The Rooster Crowed

“Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice you will disown Me three times.” And he broke down and wept.”

“Immediately the rooster crowed the second time.”

Just as Jesus said.

“Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him.”

The rooster's crow brought back Jesus' words.

“And he broke down and wept.”

Peter was crushed.

He saw his failure.

This was the godly sorrow that leads to repentance.

Unlike Judas, Peter did not run from Jesus in despair.

He would come back.

And Jesus would restore him.

Peter's story did not end in this courtyard.

It ended with him leading the church and finally giving his life for Jesus.

Cross References

Matthew 26:75

> Peter remembered what Jesus had told him: “Before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you don't know Me.” Then Peter went outside and cried bitterly.

Luke 22:62

> Peter went outside and cried with great sorrow.

John 18:27

> Peter denied it again, and right then a rooster crowed.

Spiritual Principle

Failure is not final when it leads to repentance.

Key Truth

Peter's tears were the beginning of his restoration.

LXXIII. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM MARK 14

1. Jesus Is Anointed for Burial

“She has done a beautiful thing for Me.”

Principle:

What seems like waste to some is worship to God.

2. Betrayal Can Come from Within

“Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve.”

Principle:

Judas was among the Twelve, yet turned against Christ.

3. The Supper Points to the Cross

“This is My blood of the new covenant, poured out for many.”

Principle:

The bread and the cup point to His body and blood given for many.

4. Prayer Is Essential in Trial

“Yet not what I will, but what You will.”

Principle:

Even Jesus sought the Father's will in Gethsemane.

5. Human Weakness and God's Strength

“The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Principle:

The disciples slept, Peter denied, but God's plan stood firm.

6. Christ Is the True Son of God

“I am.”

Principle:

Condemned as a blasphemer, He is declared Lord of heaven.

7. Failure Is Not Final

“And he broke down and wept.”

Principle:

Peter wept, but he was later restored to service.

LXXIV. THE WOMAN AND JUDAS

Mark places these two stories side by side.

The Woman

- Gave something extremely valuable.
- Poured it all out for Jesus.
- Was criticized for wasting money.
- Was praised by Jesus.
- Is remembered for love.

Judas

- Received money.
- Sold Jesus for silver.
- Pretended to care for the poor.
- Was warned by Jesus.
- Is remembered for betrayal.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What we are willing to give for Jesus shows what He is worth to us.

LXXV. THE LORD'S SUPPER

Verses 22–25 give the meaning of the meal Jesus left for His church.

The Bread

“This is My body.”

Jesus' body broken on the cross.

The Cup

“This is My blood of the new covenant.”

Jesus' blood poured out for forgiveness.

Looking Back

To the cross where Jesus died.

Looking Around

At the family of believers who share one table.

Looking Forward

“Until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

A Word About Different Views

Christians understand the Lord's Supper in different ways.

But all agree it is a holy meal that points to Jesus' sacrifice and His return.

Key Truth

At the Lord's Table, we remember His death, share His life, and wait for His coming.

LXXVI. LESSONS FROM GETHSEMANE

Jesus' prayer in the garden teaches us how to face our hardest hours.

Bring Your Friends

“He took Peter, James, and John along with Him.”

Be Honest About Your Sorrow

“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow.”

Pray to Your Father

“Abba, Father.”

Trust His Power

“Everything is possible for You.”

Ask Honestly

“Take this cup from Me.”

Surrender Completely

“Yet not what I will, but what You will.”

Keep Praying

“Once more He went away and prayed the same thing.”

Rise and Go Forward

“Rise! Let us go!”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The way through our Gethsemane is honest prayer that ends in surrender.

LXXVII. PETER AND JUDAS

Both failed Jesus on the same night.

Judas

- Betrayed Jesus for money.
- Felt regret.
- Did not return to Jesus.
- His story ended in despair.

Peter

- Denied Jesus out of fear.
- Wept bitterly.
- Returned to Jesus.
- Was restored and became a leader of the church.

Key Truth

The difference was not the size of the failure, but whether they came back to Jesus.

LXXVIII. WHAT MARK 14 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

He Receives Our Worship

“She has done a beautiful thing for Me.”

He Knows the Future

“One of you will betray Me.”

He Gives His Body and Blood

“This is My body… This is My blood.”

He Makes a New Covenant

“My blood of the new covenant.”

He Prays in Anguish

“Abba, Father… Take this cup from Me.”

He Submits to the Father

“Not what I will, but what You will.”

He Goes Willingly

“Rise! Let us go!”

He Is the Son of God

“I am.”

He Will Come Again

“Coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus willingly gave Himself for us, even when everyone else failed Him.

LXXIX. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why did the woman pour perfume on Jesus?

To honor Him and, as Jesus said, to anoint His body ahead of time for burial.

Question 2

Why did some call it a waste?

They thought the money should have gone to the poor, though Judas was really a thief.

Question 3

How much was Judas paid?

Matthew tells us thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave.

Question 4

Why was the timing of Passover important?

Jesus died as the true Passover Lamb at the time the lambs were being sacrificed.

Question 5

What did Jesus say about the bread and the cup?

The bread is His body, and the cup is His blood of the new covenant, poured out for many.

Question 6

What is the new covenant?

God's promise to forgive sins and write His law on hearts, sealed by Jesus' blood.

Question 7

What did Jesus pray in Gethsemane?

“Abba, Father… Take this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will.”

Question 8

Why did the disciples keep falling asleep?

They were tired and grieving, and their flesh was weak.

Question 9

Who may the young man who fled naked have been?

Many think it may have been Mark himself.

Question 10

What did Jesus say when the high priest asked if He was the Messiah?

“I am,” and He said they would see Him at God's right hand and coming on the clouds.

Question 11

How did Peter's failure differ from Judas'?

Peter wept and returned to Jesus; Judas did not.

Question 12

What should Mark 14 change about the way Christians live today?

Mark 14 should cause believers to live:

- Giving their best to Jesus in love.
- Guarding against love of money.
- Remembering Jesus' death at His table.
- Praying honestly and surrendering to God's will.
- Watching and praying against temptation.
- Confessing Jesus openly.
- Not following Jesus at a distance.
- Returning to Jesus after failure.

LXXX. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Mark 14 asks several important questions.

What Costly Love Can I Give Jesus?

Is there anything I am holding back?

Is There Any Judas in Me?

Is anything more valuable to me than Jesus?

How Do I Approach the Lord's Table?

With remembrance, gratitude, and hope?

Do I Pray Like Jesus in Gethsemane?

Honestly and with surrender?

Am I Spiritually Awake?

Or sleeping when I should be praying?

Am I Following Jesus at a Distance?

Where am I sitting by the world's fire?

Have I Denied Jesus?

In words, actions, or silence?

Have I Come Back After Failure?

Do I believe Jesus still wants me?

LXXXI. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Not What I Will”

In the garden, Jesus faced the hardest choice ever made.

The cross was before Him.

The weight of the world's sin.

The cup of God's judgment.

He fell to the ground.

He cried out, **“Abba, Father.”**

He asked honestly if there was another way.

And then He prayed the words that saved the world.

“Yet not what I will, but what You will.”

Meanwhile, His friends slept.

Judas came with a kiss.

Peter denied Him by a fire.

Everyone failed.

But Jesus did not.

He stayed faithful to the Father's will.

This creates a powerful principle.

Our salvation rests not on our faithfulness, but on His.

And because He said, “Not My will,” we can learn to say it too.

Principle:

The prayer that saved the world is the prayer that shapes every disciple: “Not what I will, but what You will.”

LXXXII. FINAL APPLICATION

Mark Chapter 14 shows Jesus' last hours of freedom.

A woman's love.

A disciple's betrayal.

A sacred meal.

A prayer of surrender.

A kiss of betrayal.

Friends who flee.

An unjust trial.

A bold confession.

A broken denial.

And through it all, a faithful Savior.

Mark 14 therefore reminds us:

Never think love for Jesus is wasted.

Never let money take His place.

Never forget the body and blood He gave.

Never stop praying in your Gethsemane.

Never think your failure is the end.

The church does not need people who boast of their strength.

It needs:

Worshipers who pour out their best.

Disciples who watch and pray.

Believers who confess Christ openly.

And sinners who return to Jesus after they fall.

The same Jesus still calls:

Tell people that Jesus gave His body and blood for many.

Tell people that He surrendered to the Father's will for us.

Tell people that He is the Son of God who will return.

Tell people that failure is not final for those who come back to Him.

And as you live:

Love Him lavishly.

Remember His sacrifice.

Watch and pray.

Come back when you fall.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the woman who poured out her love on Jesus.

Thank You that nothing given to Him in love is ever wasted.

Thank You for the bread and the cup that remind us of His body and blood.

Thank You for the new covenant sealed in His blood.

Thank You that in Gethsemane Jesus said, “Not what I will, but what You will.”

Thank You that He went willingly to the cross for us.

Thank You that He is the Son of God who will come again in glory.

Thank You that Peter's failure was not the end of his story.

Forgive us when we have held back our love from Jesus.

Forgive us when we have loved money more than Him.

Forgive us when we have slept instead of praying.

Forgive us when we have followed Him at a distance.

Forgive us when we have denied Him by our words, our actions, or our silence.

Help us give Jesus our very best.

Help us remember His sacrifice every time we come to His table.

Teach us to watch and pray.

Give us courage to confess Him openly.

And when we fall, bring us back to Him in repentance.

“Abba, Father… not what I will, but what You will.”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

““Abba, Father,” He said, “everything is possible for You. Take this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will.”” — Mark 14:36

Central Truth

While people betray, sleep, flee, and deny, Jesus willingly gives His body and blood for many, submits to the Father's will, and declares Himself the Son of God, and His grace is greater than human failure.

Mark 14 in One Sentence

As the leaders plot and Judas betrays Him, Jesus is anointed for burial, shares the Passover and gives His body and blood of the new covenant, prays in Gethsemane, "Not what I will, but what You will," is arrested and abandoned, declares before the council that He is the Son of God, and is denied three times by Peter, who weeps bitterly.