

Mrk55 – **Will You Run Away? – Mark 14:43-52**

In our **Last Msg** in **Mark**

Jesus faced The **Agony in Gethsemane** - **ALONE**

HE faced this **Agony ALONE**

PARTLY because **he had** to **face** the **Cross Alone**

& **PARTLY** because his **Disciples**

couldn't stay **awake** to **pray** with **him** - for **ONE HOUR**

& **after** the **THIRD time** Jesus **found** his **disciples sleeping**

Jesus said – in Mark 14:41–42 (NLT)

41 . . . the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

42 . . . Look, my betrayer is here!”

Jesus had **faced**

the **AGONY in GETHSEMANE** – **ALONE**

& **NOW** – **Jesus** will **ultimately**

FACE His **ARREST** – **ALONE**

Let's Pray

When you read the Gospels

Do you See the Disciples – (OR the other Characters in the story)
as EXAMPLES of YOURSELF?

If you a Christ Follower today
then the Disciples in our text today - represent YOU & ME

Mark 14:43(a) (NLT)

43 And immediately, even as Jesus said this (v.42), Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men . . .

JUDAS ISCARIOT Was one of the 12 Chosen Disciples

But there is no evidence in the Bible
that he ever BELIEVED – or Put his FAITH in Jesus

Because Jesus was NOT the Messiah that Judas Wanted

JUDAS wanted Jesus to be the Jewish Revolutionary Messiah

He was counting on Jesus to Overthrow Rome
& return control of Jerusalem to ISRAEL

THAT is the Messiah - Judas was looking for

& that's WHY Judas NEVER called Jesus LORD,
But instead – only called him - TEACHER

Because Judas saw Jesus
ONLY as a MEANS - to HIS OWN END

& when Judas Figured out

that Jesus was NOT the Messiah
that he wanted Jesus to be

Then Judas BETRAYED Jesus
for 30 pieces of Silver

& Jesus himself said – it would've been better for Judas
if he had NEVER been BORN

*Judas ran away - from WHO Jesus truly was
from the very beginning – Please, don't do that*

& Who were the men who were WITH Judas?

Again - Mark 14:43(b) (NLT)

43(b) . . . Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders.

These are the HENCHMEN

For those who are "Pulling the Strings"

& we STILL Have HENCHMEN today

For those who are "Pulling the Strings"

AND the Henchmen STILL use Swords & Clubs today
It's just 'mostly' - Media Swords & Clubs

& so - These are the Henchmen

Sent by the Religious Leaders
to Take Out JESUS

Because Jesus THREATENS
their POWER & their AUTHORITY

Please - DON'T BE Like the Religious Leaders

If you PERCEIVE Jesus
as a THREAT to your own POWER or AUTHORITY

Then – 1) You are IN really DEEP TROUBLE
2) You NEED Jesus ESPECIALLY BADLY

DON'T BE – Like this group

*They were Running Away from WHO Jesus was
To Maintain their POWER & AUTHORITY - in this World*

& then – it just GETS WORSE

cont'g - Mark 14:44-45 (NLT)

44 The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: “You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss. Then you can take him away under guard.”

45 As soon as they arrived, Judas walked up to Jesus. “Rabbi!” (Teacher) he exclaimed, and gave him the kiss.

Have you ever thought - WHY the KISS?

Why would JUDAS – Betray Jesus - with a KISS?

Consider this

In the broadest sense - the word BETRAY means:
to be unfaithful or disloyal to a person

To be Unfaithful to Jesus – with a KISS

Isn't that what ISRAEL did to God
in much of the O.T.?

While they claimed to worship GOD –
they were also worshipping the IDOLS of the pagan world

This DOUBLE-WORSHIP of Israel in the OT
Of BOTH the God of Heaven & the Idols of this world

Is often referred to in the Bible as Spiritual Adultery

They BETRAYED GOD
with a KISS of WORSHIP

WHILE Being
Spiritually Unfaithful & Disloyal to God

BY JOINING the World
In the Worship of the World's PAGAN IDOLS

I think that's a **Good Picture**
of **what Judas** is doing **here**

Going thru the **MOTIONS**
of **worshipping Jesus** with a **KISS**

While **actually BETRAYING** him – **for the World**

Have you ever Betrayed Jesus – with a KISS?

If So – Thankfully – By God's Grace
There is FORGIVENESS - & RECONCILIATION – In Christ

So – **Judas Betrays Jesus** with **a KISS**

& in Mark 14:46 (NLT)

46 Then the others (meaning the henchmen who were with Judas)
grabbed Jesus and arrested him.

47 But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest's slave, slashing off his ear.

Now – We've **GOT TO Fill** in **TWO** other **EVENTS**
that **happened right here**

One is **BEFORE** the **Henchmen** Grab **Jesus**

One is **AFTER** This **guy** gets his **ear** slashed off

For the **FIRST One** – we **have** to **jump** to **JOHN'S Gospel**

John 18:4–8 (NLT) → →

John 18:4–8 (NLT)

4 Jesus fully realized all that was going to happen to him, so he stepped forward to meet them (the henchmen). “Who are you looking for?” he asked.

5 “Jesus the Nazarene,” they replied. “I AM he,” Jesus said . . .

6 As Jesus said “I AM he,” they all drew back and fell to the ground!

**I LOVE this – because it gives us
a glimpse of God - that is SO AWESOME**

Jesus IS the Inexpressible, Eternal, All-Existing - I AM

**Jesus is the God of
the “All Consuming Fire” of Exodus Ch 3**

**Where He gives Moses his name - I AM
(meaning I AM the ever-existing one)**

**& thru-out the Bible this name for God - “I AM”
Puts on DISPLAY - more & more of God’s POWER**

**& so here – Jesus is just giving his “Supposed Captors”
A GLIMPSE of the POWER – of the Great I AM God**

**As he knocks them ALL DOWN - like Dominos
Just by Speaking His OWN NAME**

DON'T Run Away From – OR - get Knocked Over By -
the **Indescribable Power** of the **I AM God**
INSTEAD - Run **TO Him** - & **BE Protected BY HIM**

& **then** – for the **SECOND Insight**
we **have** to **jump over** to **MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT**

& PLEASE HEAR ME

THIS is a **PICTURE** – of **YOU**

Getting in GOD'S WAY

BY Doing - what **YOU think is BEST**

Matthew 26:51–54 (NLT)

51 But one of the men with Jesus (John tells us it was Peter, of course) pulled out his sword and struck the high priest's slave (servant), slashing off his ear.

52 "Put away your sword," Jesus told him . . .

53 Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly?

54 But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?"

Can you **just HEAR Jesus** - **saying** to **Peter**

Peter – Do you think I need YOUR help
with that little sword of yours?

Peter - Do you think there are NOT THOUSANDS of Angels
just outside where you could see them

**who are ALL - standing "at the ready" to protect us,
if that were The Father's plan**

**Peter – You Doing – what You Think is Best
is Getting in God's Way**

So, put away your little sword

**& try to WORK WITH ME
Instead of AGAINST ME here**

(I don't know if you can hear Jesus saying that to Peter, but I can)

**Just think – IF Peter would have started
an all-out Sword Battle right there**

**That Might Have STOPPED the whole Process
of Jesus getting to the cross**

**Then PETER would BE LIKE
What do you think of me as the 1st Pope NOW?**

**Anyway – Jesus OVERCAME
Peter's Attempt to HELP GOD OUT**

& Dr. LUKE tells us

**Jesus picked up this guy's EAR
& put it BACK on his HEAD – where it belonged**

& then – we go back to our text in MARK

Mark 14:48-49(a) (NLT)

48 Jesus asked them, “Am I some dangerous revolutionary, that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me?”

49 Why didn’t you arrest me in the Temple? I was there among you teaching every day . . .

I love this – because (again)

it seems like Jesus is kinda messing with them

But – HERE is The POINT - Thru Out this ‘ARREST’

Jesus is clearly Demonstrating – TO His DISCIPLES

that HE is in COMPLETE CONTROL

and FULLY IN-CHARGE

They are NOT GETTING IT

But it IS absolutely TRUE

& so – Jesus QUESTIONS this MOB

that’s come to Arrest him

& then he tells them the truth

about what’s Really Happening

Mark 14:49(b) (NLT)

49 . . . But these things are happening to fulfill what the Scriptures say about me.”

Jesus is in COMPLETE CONTROL

This moment

was Arranged, Orchestrated, and Determined

Before the Foundation of the World - was laid by God

BUT – the Disciples haven't Learned that yet

They STILL don't FULLY understand
WHO Jesus – REALLY IS

That will only come AFTER The Resurrection
& After the Holy Spirit is poured out in Acts Ch 2

For now – They are TERRIFIED, CONFUSED,
& they are TURNING on their HEELS - & - RUNNING AWAY

Mark 14:50 (NLT)

50 Then all his disciples deserted him and ran away.

WHOA ! – WHERE did THAT come from?

What do you mean?

ALL his Disciples DESERTED HIM & RAN AWAY

After 3 ½ Years of Being Physically WITH Jesus

- Seeing More Miracles than they could count
- Seeing Jesus Calm the Storms
- Seeing Jesus Control Nature, Demons, & Man

AFTER ALL - they **had Personally Witnessed**

They ALL deserted Jesus and ran away . . .

WHY?

WHAT would make them DESERT Jesus so easily?

Just **wait a minute . . . think about it . . .**

it was probably FEAR for them – BUT . . .

What would make YOU desert Jesus?

Would you say, “*Oh, I would NEVER desert you Jesus, NOT Me Lord, I would NEVER do that . . . I would DIE with you, before I deserted”*”

Oh, **wait a minute** - **That’s exactly** what **Peter**,
& **ALL** the **Disciples HAD JUST SAID**

& **they said it** - with **Confident MACHISMO**
But . . . that was hours ago

But Now – **we** are **SHOCKED**

By **HOW EASILY** – The **Disciples**
TURNTAIL - & **RAN AWAY**

Maybe because **this sentence**
FORCES US – to **Ask** The **Question**

If the **Original Disciples** could
So Easily - **DESERT JESUS** - **in an Instant**

WHY would I think I'm any better – than them?

<p><u>There</u> is a <u>HUGE LESSON</u> Here In <u>Spiritual HUMILITY</u></p>
--

You may think

But **I have** the **Power** of **the HOLY SPIRIT**
& **I have** the **Power** of **the RESURRECTION**

& **if you** are **IN CHRIST** today
It's **TRUE** – **YOU DO**

BUT – What if you are NOT WALKING
in **the POWER** of the **Holy Spirit**
& **the POWER** of the **Resurrection?**

IF I am **NOT Being FILLED**
with the **Holy Spirit** – **Every Day**

& **IF I** am **NOT WALKING**
in the **POWER** of the **Resurrected Life**

THEN - on **my OWN** – In my **OWN Strength**
even after **40 years** of **Following Jesus**

THIS COULD EASILY BE ME

& I have to be very, very afraid of that

& I THINK – the last 2 sentences here

Are a **PICTURE** - An **ILLUSTRATION**

Of what can **happen** to **ANY OF US**

If we **don't continue** to **STAND STRONG** – **IN JESUS**

Mark 14:51-52 (NLT)

51 One young man following behind was clothed only in a long linen shirt. When the mob tried to grab him,

52 he slipped out of his shirt and ran away naked.

Now – **basically ALL** the **Scholars** Say

this was **Most likely MARK** himself

the **writer** of this **Gospel**

who had **followed** the **Disciples** to **Gethsemane**

But - **To me** - **THIS is Picture** - Of a **Christian**

Who is **Facing the Enemy**

NOT CLOTHED in the **Full Armor** of **God**

Who **TURNS and RUNS**

The **first time** the **Enemy** - **Comes at him**

& this Poor Christian is left –
Running thru the desert – NAKED

& knowing that it happened to the Original Disciples

HUMBLES ME - & Convinces Me

That I've GOT to CLING – Tighter & Tighter - to Jesus

& I've GOT to KNOW HIM - Better & Better - Every Day

I've GOT to TRUST Him MORE - Every Day

I've GOT to have MORE FAITH in Him - Every Day

& that I've GOT to have LESS FAITH
& LESS CONFIDENCE – in MYSELF

Guys - This COULD Easily BE – YOU or ME

Deserting Jesus

& Running Spiritually NAKED thru the Desert

HERE is the LESSON

We MUST CRUSH – any Spiritually Pride – in our Lives

We MUST NOT THINK - Too Highly of ourselves

Let's Commit

TO BE FILLED with the HOLY SPIRIT - Every Day

& TO WALK in The RESURRECTED LIFE - Every Day

& Let's COMMIT

To **NEVER** being **found**

Running Spiritually Naked – thru the desert

Let's Pray