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Sermon Notes

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## **Jesus Arrested: A Light Shining in the Darkness**

**Mark 14:43-52**

### I. The Darkest Night in History

#### A. Wicked Humanity at Its Worst; Christ's Glory at Its Greatest

1. The account of the arrest of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world
2. Betrayed to a mob of armed and wicked people by one of his closest friends in the world
3. In this account, we will see the sinfulness of the human heart in darkest hue
4. In this account also, we will see the radiance of the glory of Christ shining all the brighter
5. The night that Christ was born, the darkness of the night was ripped apart by the appearance of a single angel

***Luke 2:9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them***

6. In a similar but very different way, the glory of Christ ripped apart the moral darkness of human history and showed us the perfection of his nature by a stark contrast with the behavior of all those around him

#### B. This Was the Darkest Night in History

1. John 13: two things linked to Judas taking the bread:

***John 13:27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.***

***John 13:30 As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.***

2. The “darkness” is human sin... the wickedness of the human heart, when the alliance between Satan and sinful men reached its darkest and deepest level
3. In an earlier sermon, we discussed Satan’s motives at this point; why would he lead Simon Peter to tempt Jesus to NOT go to the cross (Matthew 16), but then later orchestrate through Judas that Jesus WOULD go to the cross?
4. Answer: Satan is a murderer... and I believe though he wanted to thwart God’s plan and tempt Jesus to save his own life, I think in the end he led his own bloodlust to overwhelm him and he murdered Jesus
5. This was Satan’s hour; Jesus called this time the time of darkness... when the evil of sin was on full display

In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus spoke these words to the people arresting Him:

***Luke 22:53 Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour-- when darkness reigns."***

What a CHILLING PHRASE: this is YOUR HOUR, WHEN DARKNESS REIGNS!

- a. The sinfulness of Judas’s treacherous betrayal, culminating in the most disgusting symbol of dishonor in history—his KISS
- b. The sinfulness of the chief priests and the elders of the Jewish nation, who should have recognized the time of God coming to them in the person of Christ, but who instead killed Him out of selfishness, jealousy, power-lust, greed, and pride
- c. The sinfulness of the Roman soldiers and the crowd, who were there to arrest the Prince of Peace with swords and clubs
- d. The sinfulness of Peter, who through unbelief did not accept Jesus’ statements about the need for Him to die for their sins,

and who sought to derail God's redemptive plan by fighting for Jesus' escape from arrest

- e. The sinfulness of all the disciples, who in selfish cowardice abandoned Jesus in His hour of need and fled for their lives
- 6. This was the darkest night in history... when the human race arrested, tried, condemned, mocked and tortured the only perfectly good man that ever lived, and even worse, did that to the Son of God
- 7. This darkness was a darkness that could be felt because of the thickness of human evil
- 8. And yet, in the darkest night, the light of the world shone all the brighter

#### C. Christ the Light of the World

***John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."***

***John 1:4-5 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.***

***1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.***

- 1. Jesus Christ is perfect light... the absolutely perfect display of the attributes of God

***Hebrews 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being,***

- 2. To see Him is to see the Father

***John 14:9 Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.***

- 3. Jesus will put the glory of the Father on display in this account
- 4. Christ's light shines all the brighter when contrasted so plainly with every other human being in this story

#### D. Marvel at the Fact: The Son of God ARRESTED!

1. They tied up Jesus!

***John 18:12 Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him***

2. There is only one reason that Jesus stayed bound after His arrest:  
He WANTED to stay bound... He willed it!!

***John 10:18 No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.***

## II. The Darkest Act on the Darkest Night: Judas's Betrayal

***Mark 14:43-52 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. <sup>44</sup> Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." <sup>45</sup> Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. <sup>46</sup> The men seized Jesus and arrested him.***

### A. While He Was Still Speaking

1. They were in the private Garden of Gethsemane
2. The last thing Jesus said

***Mark 14:41-42 Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup> Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"***

3. Jesus was pouring out his heart to God in prayer, but his disciples were squandering their opportunity to get ready for the temptations they were all about to face
4. Jesus' time of prayer continued right up until the last possible moment; he drank from the Father's presence and kept drinking until it was time to go
5. Jesus knows that Judas has arrived with his enemies: Vs. 42:  
"Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

6. Judas arrives with a LARGE CROWD (armed w swords and clubs as well as torches and lanterns)
7. John's Gospel... gives us a much clearer display of Christ's courage, leadership, and boldness at this critical moment
  - a. Jesus WENT OUT to meet this entourage

"Went out" (because Gethsemane was probably a walled private garden, and Jesus went out through the gate to meet them)

***John 18:4-6 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"<sup>5</sup> "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I AM," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.)<sup>6</sup> When Jesus said, "I AM," they drew back and fell to the ground.***

- b. Clear display of Christ's power as God the Son... He merely says "I am" and the whole lot of them falls to the ground before Him"

#### B. Judas, "One of the Twelve"

1. Amazing how Judas is identified this way years later by Mark
2. Rather than resorting to insulting words, like "Judas, the wicked traitor," or something like that, Mark (under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit) says "One of the Twelve"
3. Three times in this account, that is how Judas Iscariot is identified
4. Jesus himself used this terminology

***Mark 14:20 It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me.***

5. Judas is one of the most wicked human beings in history
6. Often in popular culture he is characterized as someone with an essentially good heart with good motives who misunderstood Jesus' true motives and tried to help Jesus accomplish his mission but failed; the 70s rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar" tells its story somewhat through Judas's perspective

7. Nothing could be further from the truth. Jesus called Judas a devil
8. By all the Gospel writers calling Judas “one of the Twelve,” they are HEIGHTENING the sense of moral outrage at what he did to Jesus

***Psalm 41:9 Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.***

### C. The Crowd with Judas

***Mark 14:43 With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.***

1. The chief priests and the elders had sent this huge crowd, armed for a fight, to arrest Jesus
2. According to John’s Gospel, there was a detachment (Greek *speira*) of Roman soldiers, perhaps 500-600 from the barracks in Fort Antonia... along with temple guards
3. All told, there may have been as many as 1000 armed men that night to arrest one man, a leader of twelve other peaceful men... Jesus had never led any kind of insurrection against them, so He exposed the foolishness of their weapons

***Mark 14:48-49 "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? <sup>49</sup> Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me.***

4. It is very late at night, or perhaps very early in the morning... maybe three in the morning at this point... the dead of night
5. The mixed multitude a picture of the world and its disdain for Jesus
  - a. The crowd was UNJUST: Jesus had broken no part of the Law of Moses, nor of Roman Law... He was a perfectly innocent man
  - b. The crowd was MINDLESS: most of them there that night probably knew very little about Jesus and were just following orders... they had no personal knowledge about Christ and were ignorant of His person and works; they were in it just for

their own personal welfare... they were hired hands just doing a job; so most of the world's population knows little of Jesus and cares little for Him, and simply goes about their daily lives as though He didn't exist at all; so in church history, many hired mercenaries have fought against Christ and his church without having any idea what the issues were... they wanted their paycheck and to stay out of trouble

- c. The crowd was also COWARDLY: they came at night to avoid trouble with the population of Jerusalem
- d. The crowd was BLASPHEMOUS: for it was the Son of God they were there to lay their hands on, arrest and lead to His death

#### D. Judas's Repulsive Kiss

***Mark 14:44-46 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."<sup>45</sup> Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him.<sup>46</sup> The men seized Jesus and arrested him.***

1. The most disgusting part of the whole wicked affair
2. Judas had received his thirty pieces of silver for his wicked intention... but now the time had come to betray Jesus
3. The evil signal was concocted in the mind of Judas, who by this time was inhabited by the devil himself... Satan thought up this wicked twist
4. A kiss is a sign of loving relationship... but it is given in a variety of ways
  - a. A slave who loved his master would only have the boldness to kiss the feet of his master; so would an enemy who was pleading for mercy from a conquering king
  - b. An ordinary servant would kiss the hem of the garment or the back of the master's hand
  - c. A kiss on the cheek showed tremendous intimacy and closeness... but even then, it would only have been initiated by

the master... the disciple or servant or son would wait for the king to initiate... he wouldn't be so bold as to initiate such intimacy

- d. Judas greeted Jesus, "HAIL, RABBI!!" and the Greek says Judas kissed him in an intense way (*kataphileo*)... with great affection and perhaps multiple times
- e. It was exceptionally wicked because of its hypocrisy and arrogance

***Luke 22:48 but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"***

E. Jesus' Last Words to Judas (recorded in Matthew, not Mark)

***Matthew 26:50 Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for." Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.***

Judas must still be thinking about these words, as he will for all eternity... Judas Iscariot came to that Garden to betray Jesus... now the work was done

### III. The Darkest Acts of Jesus' True Followers

Judas exposed his true nature that night... a completely wicked man under the direct influence of Satan himself

But that night also exposed the moral weakness of Jesus' closest followers, the Eleven Apostles, men who would be relied on to lead the gospel advance from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

They would eventually and courageously lay down their lives for Christ, all of them dying as martyrs except John, who was exiled. But that night, he chose to save their lives by fleeing from their friend, their master, their king

But it began with this one faithless act

***Mark 14:47 Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.***



A. Matthew, Mark, and Luke Maintains Anonymity... John Tells Us it was Peter

John also tells us the servant's name was Malchus

B. Peter Consistently Refused to Believe Jesus' Words About the Cross

1. The next step in Peter's terrible night... the worst night of his life
2. As I mentioned, at Caesarea Philippi, Satan used Peter to tempt Jesus NOT to go to the cross

***Matthew 16:22-23 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"<sup>23</sup> Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."***

C. Earlier, Peter Had Boasted of His Courage

***Mark 14:31 Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you."***

1. Now... he wanted to back it up with his sword
2. Peter's sword was a long dagger or a very short sword... not a battle weapon
3. Peter was no trained soldier... he was swinging wildly and accomplished very little except severing Malchus's ear
4. Peter's actions were faithless and completely misguided
5. Jesus HAD to die for Peter's sins, or the wrath of God would consume Peter forever... Peter was trying to STOP the eternal redemptive plan of Almighty God!!

D. Jesus Healed Malchus's Ear

***Luke 22:51 But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.***

E. Peter's Misguided Fight in Christ's Name

1. Jesus' statement to Pilate

***John 18:36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."***

Peter DID seek to FIGHT to prevent His arrest from the Jews... and that was, to Jesus, clear evidence of the way KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD advance

2. Jesus' statement on how His Kingdom advances

***John 12:24 I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.***

NOT BY KILLING BUT BY DYING!!!!

IV. Jesus' Radiant Glory: Submission to Scripture (Matthew 26:52-56)

***Mark 14:48-49 "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? <sup>49</sup> Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled."***

Jesus openly declared his willingness to go and die in fulfillment of the scriptures...

Clearer, more comprehensively in Matthew 26:

***Matthew 26:52-56 "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?" <sup>55</sup> At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. <sup>56</sup> But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.***

Jesus' Command to Peter: Put Your Sword Back in its Place

1. Reason #1: All Who Draw the Sword Die by the Sword
  - a. Jesus gives Peter a strong dose of reality
  - b. He was surrounded by 600 Roman soldier, trained killers... all of them capable of killing Peter instantly
  - c. If Peter insisted on fighting, he would be cut down immediately
2. Reason #2: If I were trying to escape arrest, I wouldn't be relying on your dagger!

***Matthew 26:53 Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?***

- a. Note the language of SUBMISSION even in this assertion
  - b. Jesus would never REBEL against the true source of all authority... His Father
  - c. His Father alone would be the source of Jesus' military power to crush His enemies... Jesus does nothing apart from the Father's will
  - d. If the Father willed to deliver Jesus from arrest that night by killing Jesus' enemies, the amount of power He could put at Jesus' full disposal would be amazing!!!
3. Reason #3: "I would rather DIE than break scripture!"

***Matthew 26:54 But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"***

- a. Stand in awe of the attitude of Jesus Christ toward Scripture!!!!
- b. There is not a man, woman, or child alive on earth today or who has ever lived who has a higher view of Scripture than Jesus!!
- c. Jesus' reason to Peter to put the sword away is this:  
SCRIPTURE HAS SAID I MUST DIE, AND THEREFORE I MUST DIE!!!
- d. The word "fulfilled" is the standard one used in Matthew's Gospel for Old Testament Prophecies about Christ

e. In the fullness of time, God revealed His plan through the Prophets

***Psalm 22:1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?***

***Psalm 22:14-18 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. <sup>15</sup> My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. <sup>16</sup> Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. <sup>17</sup> I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. <sup>18</sup> They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.***

***Isaiah 53:5-10 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.***

f. Peter... this is the eternal plan of God for YOUR SALVATION, and for the salvation of a countless multitude from every tribe and nation on earth... this is the fulfillment of every animal sacrifice that there has ever been... this is what God has been building towards for thousands of years...

g. PUT YOUR SWORD AWAY, for Scripture has said I MUST DIE... and I WOULD RATHER DIE THAN VIOLATE SCRIPTURE

B. The Disciples Flee... and Jesus was left ALL ALONE

***Mark 14:50-52 Then everyone deserted him and fled. <sup>51</sup> A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, <sup>52</sup> he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.***

“Deserted” is a very strong word... they turned their backs on Jesus, abandoned Him, forsook Him, gave up on Him, fled from Him to save their lives

The strange account of the young man in the linen garment is mysterious... many scholars think Mark included it because he

himself was that young man. Why else would this tiny detail be included?

But we just don't know anything more than what is written here.

Everything else is speculation. The point is... Jesus was left all alone, walking to his trials, suffering, and death... facing all of it alone.

## V. Applications

### A. Come to Christ!!

1. The whole purpose of the arrest of Jesus was that Scripture might be fulfilled... and those prophecies were written for our salvation
2. Jesus allowed Himself to be arrested so that He might die for our sins
3. Trust in Him!!

### B. Worship Christ for the Brilliant Light Shining in a Very Dark World

1. The darkness continues until this present day
2. That was indeed the darkest night in the history of the world...
3. But Christ is every bit as much the light of the world now as He was then
4. Worship Him for His attributes on display here...
  - a. Behold His courage: going willingly to His death at the hands of such evil men
  - b. Behold His humility: making Himself nothing and being treated so shamefully as they came out with swords and clubs to arrest Him as if He were a common criminal
  - c. Behold His love: laying down His life for sinners like us, and even loving His enemy by healing Malchus's ear so tenderly

- d. Behold His authority: in that the angels of heaven would have been put at His full disposal and would have obeyed His slightest command
- e. Behold His wisdom: in reasoning with Peter and with His enemies
- f. Behold His submission: by obeying Scripture and His Father's will, even though it meant His shameful and excruciating death on the cross
- g. Behold His great patience: in not striking down His enemies with the sword of His mouth

#### C. Understand the Darkness of Human Sin

1. See the wickedness of the human heart on display here
2. The wickedness of the chief priests and rulers, who daily studied the Scriptures that testified to Jesus... and they refused to believe what was written, but selfishly sought to preserve their position of power
3. The wickedness of Judas, who was the hypocrite of all hypocrites in his betrayal of Jesus with a kiss
4. The mindless callousness of the Romans and the rest of the crowd who were blindly following orders to arrest Jesus
5. The unbelief of Peter, who did not understand the purposes of God in Christ's death and took matters into his own hands with his sword
6. The cowardice of the disciples, who loved their lives in this world so much that they forsook Jesus (all of them!!!) and fled
7. See the sin in your own heart!!

#### D. Zero in on Judas's Kiss

1. Judas was lost, and I hope, by God's grace, you are not
2. BUT is there not some of the Judas kiss in each one of us?

3. Isn't it true that any time we do something outwardly righteous to honor Christ, but our hearts are cold toward Him, it's like a Judas kiss?

***Matthew 15:8-9 "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. <sup>9</sup> They worship me in vain***

4. Plead with the Lord to transform your heart and make everything you do for Christ pure and holy, passionate and flowing from a deep love for Jesus

#### E. Embrace Christ's View of Scripture

***Matthew 26:54 how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"***

1. Total perfection of Scripture

***2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed***

2. Absolute authority of Scripture

***John 10:35 the Scripture cannot be broken-***

3. Jesus' attitude: "I would rather die than break Scripture!"