



## Kiss the Son

Community Study Guide: Mark 14:43-52 –Week of June 2nd, 2024

### 1. Judas Clothed in Hypocrisy

As events surrounding Jesus are driving toward a climax, we see the first of many direct betrayals of Christ. Judas, with the Sanhedrin, has come to arrest Jesus. They had determined that now, at night, in a location outside the city, was the moment to strike. They came to the Gethsemane with a group of soldiers in order to arrest Him. There is great irony in this moment. The religious leaders of the people of Israel come to arrest and ultimately put to death the messiah that had been prophesied. They come to kill and betray the object of the promise that they had been entrusted to shepherd. However, it was not just the Pharisees who came to arrest Jesus, it was also Judas. The man who had been with Jesus for 3 years, heard His teaching, and observed Him throughout many circumstances, was the one leading the mob to arrest Jesus. This trusted follower of Christ comes clothed in total hypocrisy. He approaches Christ in complete and total self-delusion. Though Judas had seen undeniable proof of Christ divinity, he still decided to betray Him. This should be a moment of reflection for all of us. It is possible to devote your external life to the work of Christ, and still deny Him in your heart. We can go to great lengths to outwardly look like we are following Jesus when we are truly just pursuing our own interests. To make the hypocrisy even more clear, Judas designates Jesus as the target with a kiss, and calls Him, “Rabbi.”

### 2. Peter Clothed in Cowardice

#### DISCUSSION GOALS

##### Head

Self-deception comes easily to us as sinful beings. We often, especially over time, have our hearts and motivations twisted. This can lead us to behaviors and decisions that we would find shocking. We must approach our lives with humility, looking to Christ and His word at all times. We have in God’s word all that is needed to correct and instruct our hearts so that we might not drift away into regrettable actions.

##### Heart

Our hearts can be deceitful, and prone to wandering. We must keep a close watch over it. Furthermore, we must consistently look to Christ, as He is the one who can make our hearts new.

##### Hands

There will be when our faith will be confronted with fear and duplicity. Stand firm in the faith, being rooted in Christ through the power of His word.

As a different example of how we can approach Jesus, we see Peter's actions during this time of crisis. He initially acts in defiance of Christ. He takes a sword and jumps into battle. After cutting off the ear of one of the high priest's servants, Jesus rebukes Peter. He reminds him that Jesus could call down legions of angels to stand in His defense. The whole purpose of this moment was that Jesus intentionally was surrendering Himself, not that He was being taken against His will. We see in a moment, in a very quick period of time, that Peter goes from sword-wielding to fleeing. Peter could not follow the example of Jesus, trusting in the plan of God. Peter ultimately shows his cowardice and not his courage.

### **3. Jesus Clothed in Veracity**

As always, we see our righteous example in Christ's actions. While those around Him are focused on the human sword, and on the immediate consequences, Jesus is focused elsewhere. Christ had His eyes fixed on the justice and redemption of God. He was prepared to endure the punishment for sin. He took on our sins so that we might have His righteousness. Because Christ has done all this, we can have victory over the flesh.

## Read Mark 14:43-52

1. What is hypocrisy? How do we see it being displayed by those who come to arrest Jesus? By Judas?
2. Spiritual drift toward unrighteousness is a gradual and often covert process. It is incremental. When has God revealed spiritual drift in your own life? What brought it to your perception? How can/how is the power of God working to help you change course?
3. Pastor Jan mentioned the difference between Judas and those who are saved is the intervening grace of God. Take a moment to think of someone you are tempted to have a strong disdain for. How does viewing God's restraining grace as the difference between you and them shape the way you think/feel about that person? How might you strive toward changing your view of them?
4. We see in this passage that many who would consider themselves the righteous of God (Pharisees, Judas) ultimately are not... they are hypocrites. It should lead us to consider the question for ourselves: Are we saved? Are we acting in hypocrisy? What evidence can we look to, that we might answer that question?
5. **Read Matthew 26:52-54** What are we to make of Peter in these moments? Within a short period, he falls asleep (while told to stay awake), he engages in combat (while Jesus is trying to surrender Himself), and he finally ends up fleeing in fear. What can this teach us about how we are to act during moments of crisis in our lives?
6. Throughout the Passion narrative, we have seen that Jesus is in control of the events and how they unfold. To the disciples, however, they view the events as though Christ is no longer directing them. When have you found yourself in a similar situation, where you doubted the Lord's control? How did you correct your heart? How did the application of the Gospel change your mindset?
7. We should be wary of relying mainly on past experiences as ongoing proof of our faith. How are you keeping your faith fueled, and how can your brothers and sisters support you in this?