

Mark 14:27-52

Well, let's set the stage here for just a few minutes as we come into our text for this evening. We are now looking at the last several hours of the life of Jesus before He will be crucified.

Jesus is about to enter into the most difficult trial that a human has ever endured. Our Lord will be mocked, beaten and killed, slaughtered as a lamb for the sins of the world. I cannot imagine what it would be like to have not one sin in your life and still face a death that was only reserved for the worst of criminals. You could liken the cross to the electric chair in our day.

Last week in our study we were made aware that there was a plot to take the life of Jesus but if you remember the religious leaders said they desired to wait until after the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread...so in their minds they were making plans but had the desire to wait just a little while longer. You and I know though that the Father had a different time table and that while the religious leaders had their plans that the Father's plan was the one that would take place.

We then saw a woman come to Jesus and she chose to break a very expensive bottle of perfume and anoint the head of Jesus with it. This was an act of incredible worship on her part. However, There were those there that saw it differently. If you remember there were several there who said the perfume was being wasted and it could have been sold and spent on the poor. Jesus stood up for her though saying "they should leave her alone" and that she had done this to prepare Him for His burial and she would always be remembered for what she had done.

And then we saw Judas Iscariot begin to betray Jesus as he went over to the religious leaders and agreed to look for a time to betray the Lord. Shortly after this during the Passover meal the Lord announced that someone would betray Him and each one of those in the room began to ask the Lord “Is it I?”

We then saw the Lord institute what is called the Lord’s supper or communion as the Lord took bread and broke it and gave it to the disciples saying this is my body...and then He took the cup and gave it to them and said that the cup represented the new covenant that was found in His blood.

Once the meal was completed we were told in verse 26 that they left the city and went out to the Mount of Olives which was on the eastern side of Jerusalem and as they went, they sang a hymn.

This is the only recorded time that we have Jesus singing. Have you ever wondered how the Lord sounded as He sang?

And so they are walking from the upper room, through the city, probably past the temple and now they are in the mount of olives. It is dark outside and yet we know because it was the Passover that it was a full moon and so they probably walked being guided by the moonlight.

And then we come to verses 27 and 28 which say this ²⁷ **Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written:**

**‘I will strike the Shepherd,
And the sheep will be scattered.’**

²⁸ **“But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.”**

Can you imagine walking with the Lord and having Him suddenly say this? In our study last week we were told that 1 of them would betray Jesus, now the Lord says you will all stumble and scatter when the Shepherd is struck.

The Lord even let's them know that it had been prophesied ahead of time that this would happen and you can find this over in Zechariah 13:7.

We might remember that the disciples still don't comprehend what is about to happen so for them this was just incomprehensible to think about.

It would also seem that the disciples were so focused on the negative things Jesus had to say that they missed out on the fact that once again the Lord is telling them that He will die and rise again.

It's interesting to note here that while Jesus clearly says all of them are going to have a big failure in their lives that He tells them I will go before you to Galilee...I believe this is good news for you and I as well as the disciples. Even though the disciples will fail the Lord still had a plan for them and wanted to work in them.

It's good news for us because at some point in your life even as a Christian you are going to find yourself in a place that you will fail, that you will fall short of God's calling on your life, that you may do some things that simply said aren't right...I'm thankful the Lord doesn't just discard us and toss us to the side marking us as unusable.

Instead the desire of Jesus and what we will see take place in the disciples as the Gospels unfold is that the Lord desires to forgive us in our failures and use us in our brokenness to reach the world. 1 John

1:9 is such a comforting verse. It says ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

As we look at this and we see Jesus speak both of His death and His resurrection I am reminded of what the word says over in John 16:19-20 which says this ¹⁹Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, “Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’?” ²⁰Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy.

While the world and especially the religious leaders rejoiced in the death of Jesus the disciples would be found mourning, upset that their Master had been killed...and yet just three days later the Lord Jesus would rise from the dead producing great joy in the hearts of the disciples.

So the disciples here receive some bad news, some shocking news really and then we see how they responded if you look at verses 29-31 which say this ²⁹Peter said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble, yet I *will not be*.”

³⁰Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.”

³¹But he spoke more vehemently, “If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!”

And they all said likewise.

You know sometimes I feel bad for Peter...I kind of think he gets picked on as a disciple. Yes, it's true he made an awful lot of mistakes but I also think sometimes that he was quite brave in that he was the only one to speak up in some difficult situations.

Here the Gospel of Mark focuses in on his response but notice at the end of verse 31 that we are told all of the disciples asserted the same thing that Peter did.

Peter is headed for a big failure in his life as the Lord simply let's Peter know that three times he is going to deny knowing the Lord. God in His sovereignty even had a rooster all lined up to begin to crow in the middle of the night.

In the moment Peter is determined in his heart that he would die for the Lord and yet we'll see next week that the Lord's word certainly did come to pass.

I think I can relate to Peter in that in my heart and mind I am determined to serve Jesus and that I would do anything for Him...I think Peter's real failure here is that he is trying to do these things in his own strength and his own ability. We might remember that the empowering work of the Holy Spirit has not yet happened in the disciples lives.

Peter will deny Jesus three times and yet later on in the book of Acts we'll see Peter boldly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the masses...we might ask what changed in his life...Again I believe it was the simple fact that the Holy Spirit came into His life and empowered Peter to proclaim the truth.

It must have been a hard thing to hear that he was going to fail. I try to put myself in his shoes and I ask myself what would have been a better response from Peter? Perhaps instead of arguing with Jesus (which is never a good idea and you will always lose I might add) Peter could have been humble about it and asked the Lord for strength and sought His council on the matter.

I know that failure should never be in the hearts and minds of any of us as we look to serve Jesus...**I think the key is to remain humble.** Peter here points to the others and says “Lord these guys here may fail, but I’ll never fail.” I believe Peter had pride in his heart and the Bible is clear that when a person is full of pride a falling on one’s face is in the works.

I want to remind us again that this was not the end of Peter’s journey. His failure didn’t mean Jesus was done with Him. I like what we learn over in the gospel of Luke 22:31-32 as we get a few more details about what took place. It says ³¹ **And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”**

Jesus had a plan for Peter even though failure was in his future. One day he would be a great encouragement to others. You and I are still gleaning today from what the Lord said to Peter.

Look with me at verses 32-34 which say this ³² **Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³ And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply**

distressed. ³⁴Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch.”

So here the 11 are with Jesus and they are in the garden of Gethsemane and we can see that Jesus is undoubtedly having a very difficult time.

We should remember that Jesus knew what would happen to Him, He knew the hour of His death was fast approaching...I'm sure Jesus knew that the scriptures prophesied that He would die a gruesome death as indicated in Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53.

Jesus as He was in the garden looked at the 11 and told them to sit here while He prayed...and then we see once again that Peter, James and John are given special access to be in a place with Jesus that the others were not given. We see these three on the mount of transfiguration with Jesus and we also see them in the home of a little girl that Jesus raised from the dead. Why these 3 we can't be sure, but they certainly were blessed to experience things that others were not chosen for. Probably these three learned valuable lessons for their own lives while the other 8 also learned lessons in contentment and trust that Jesus would let them experience exactly what they needed in life.

And then we can see the emotion of the moment catch up to Jesus as He is for lack of better words totally overcome with all that is about to take place. Jesus says His soul is exceedingly sorrowful even to the point of death.

And then the Lord asked the 3 to stay and watch. Jesus wanted some companionship as He went through this hard time in His life. It's

always good to surround yourself with those you love as you go through life. We might be reminded tonight that we have each other and that we need each other.

So the disciples are given a simple task here to sit and to watch as the Lord communed with the Father.

Look at verses 35-36 which say ³⁵ **He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him.** ³⁶ **And He said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.”**

Notice Jesus steps away from the disciples and then falls to the ground. Jesus is here totally overcome with the situation that He faces. Have you ever had a time in your life when you had nothing left in the tank, when you didn't know how to respond, when you were powerless and without anything to give?

If this is you even now where you find yourself in a place of brokenness, in a place of confusion, in a place where the circumstances of life are just too much then I want you and I to take this lesson from Jesus and run to our Father in heaven.

To expound on what Jesus was going through listen to Luke 22:41-44 which says ⁴¹ **And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed,** ⁴² **saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”** ⁴³ **Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.** ⁴⁴ **And being in agony, He prayed more**

earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

I can't imagine how difficult this was for our Lord...and to think that all the while He was doing these things with you and I in mind, that He was doing this with joy in His heart knowing that His sacrifice would bring us into a right relationship with the Father.

Notice Mark records that Jesus said ABBA which means father. Here we can see the closeness Jesus had to the Father, the tenderness that was found in the relationship. We can also see that the Father and the Son clearly had different roles in the relationship and we can see that Jesus as He is approaching this hard time in His life is saying not my will but your will be done.

I do believe that coming to a place in your life that you are no longer living for yourself but for the will of Jesus is one of the hardest things a believer must work through. There comes a point that Jesus will say to each of us "how do you want to live your life? For yourself? Or for what I have for you?"

And I believe when we are faced with those times that we are going to have to wrestle with our flesh, we are going to have to cry out for the strength of Jesus, we are going to have to come to a place just like Jesus did when we say not my will but Yours be done.

Now I'm not at all comparing what we go through in our lives to what Jesus went through when it came to going to the cross but the principles I believe are the same. It's my opinion that God is absolutely looking for those individuals that will choose to lay their

lives down, take up their cross daily and follow Him and when God finds those people He will use them for His glory.

I wanted to share with you something we learn about Jesus over in Hebrews 5:7-8 which says this of this time of prayer in the life of Jesus it says ⁷who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, ⁸ though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

The prayer of Jesus was heard, the Father said “no there is not any other way” and Jesus learned obedience as He suffered. I hope we can learn from our Lord as we look to walk with Him in our lives.

We should ask a question when we look at this prayer of Jesus...We should ask what it means when it says Take this cup from me...we might look at that and immediately think that Jesus was trying to escape the death of the cross, or the torture that was about to take place but I think it was about way more than that.

The cup Jesus was about to drink while it did contain a physical component was far more spiritual in nature in my opinion. David Guzik of Blue Letter Bible pointed out three old testament scriptures that speak of the cup and I wanted to read those to you.

Psalms 75:8 says this **For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, And the wine is red; It is fully mixed, and He pours it out; Surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth Drain and drink down.**

Isaiah 51:17 says **Awake, awake! Stand up, O Jerusalem, You who have drunk at the hand of the Lord The cup of His fury;**

**You have drunk the dregs of the cup of trembling,
And drained it out.**

And then over in Jeremiah 25:15-16 the Word says this ¹⁵**For thus says the Lord God of Israel to me: “Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it. ¹⁶ And they will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them.”**

The drinking of the cup in the Old Testament often carried with it the judgment of God and the wrath of God. When someone deserved God’s judgment it was delivered in a cup.

Jesus when He died on the cross was drinking of the wrath of God on our behalf. The Father we know would turn away from Jesus as He bore our sins for us...that’s why Jesus cried from the cross saying “Father, why have you forsaken me”

You and I should have been the ones to go to the cross. You and I should have died for our sins and yet Jesus paid the price for us taking our place.

We should always be reminded that Jesus did not have to go to the cross. Jesus chose the cross, he chose submission to the Father’s will. He chose to drink of the cup of God’s wrath on our behalf.

Let’s look at verses 37-42 which say this ³⁷**Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”**

³⁹ Again He went away and prayed, and spoke the same words. ⁴⁰ And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. ⁴¹ Then He came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough! The hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.”

Peter and the disciples had all emphatically said they would never abandon the Lord...and yet when they were asked to simply keep watch for an hour they fell short not once or twice but on three separate occasions.

I want you to see a few things here and first I just want you to notice that Jesus called Peter by a different name, a name that Peter hadn't heard for a while in that Jesus called him Simon...that was the name Peter had before he met the Lord. It's as if the Lord is saying you are acting a lot like you were before you met me.

The second thing I want to make note of is an exhortation that I believe we can glean from this in that we must be careful that we are not found to be asleep spiritually in life. We've talked about this recently but it's very possible that we can go through life thinking we have it all together and yet the evaluation of God can be that we are poor, wretched, blind and naked. You and I must have a heart that constantly says “Lord help me to be awake spiritually, help me to be right before you, help me to be humble, help me to be usable...Lord help me to be clay in your hands”

Are you asleep spiritually in your life? If so it's high time to wake up for our adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion seeking whom he might devour...These men we will see shortly will fail spiritually.

That's why the Lord told them the third thing I want you to see here when he said "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." Isn't that the truth? I can have some pretty great aspirations in life spiritually and yet if I'm not empowered by the Spirit of God then I'm in big trouble. It's so easy to do things in the power of our flesh and as we do so we'll find that we fail. In our hearts we can have a great desire to honor God and that's a good desire to have but if we don't put in the work of walking in the Spirit we'll find ourselves failing just like these men will.

The fourth thing we can see here is that Jesus three times went away and prayed in a very similar manner...I suppose that's comforting to me in that there are times I have to pray over and over throughout the day about a particular situation that is happening in my life. If Jesus could pray about the same things then so can you and I...I believe our heavenly Father delights to hear from us and commune with us especially when we have deep issues taking place in our hearts.

The fifth thing to notice is that Jesus said the hour had come...You might for homework go and look through the gospel of John and you will see Jesus on numerous occasions say the hour had not yet come...**now the hour had come for Jesus to do that which He had come to accomplish.** All the other miracles and teachings of Jesus were incredibly valuable but His death on the cross was the reason He had come and now it was time to face that task.

So the Lord knows what is about to take place, He has spent time with the Father preparing Himself for what lies ahead and then we come to verses 43-45 which say ⁴³ And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead *Him* away safely.”

⁴⁵ As soon as he had come, immediately he went up to Him and said to Him, “Rabbi, Rabbi!” and kissed Him.

We might notice here that when those came who were going to arrest Jesus **that they came in mass and they came armed** as they had swords and clubs with them. **I wonder if they thought they were going to have a serious altercation on their hands.**

The idea here is that it wasn't just one or two people but a multitude of people are seen here in the garden. **Perhaps they thought the disciples would put up a fight or they might find Jesus there ready to make His last stand.**

It is interesting that Judas had arranged to betray Jesus by giving a kiss to him. As Judas did this it would be a sign to those with him that this was the man that needed to be arrested. **This let's us know that Jesus did not sit in royal robes while the disciples were sitting in regular clothing. Jesus looked just like you and I. There was nothing that set him apart. It wasn't like Jesus was 7 feet tall and ripped. Remember the Lord came in humility being born in a manger in a small town. He didn't come from a family of riches who had it all.**

Look at verse 46 which says ⁴⁶**Then they laid their hands on Him and took Him.** Certainly this set into motion the evil plans of those that had a hatred so deep in their hearts that they desired to murder Jesus...I do have a question as we look at this.

Let me first share with you what happened previously in the life of Jesus if you listen to Luke 4:28-30 which says this ²⁸**So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,** ²⁹**and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff.** ³⁰**Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.**

My question is did Jesus have no power in this situation to walk away from what was happening? The answer is He absolutely could have prevented His arrest from happening. I believe Jesus could have chosen to be disobedient to the Father's will if He had wanted to. Now we would have massive problems if Jesus hadn't obeyed but I believe that Jesus submitted Himself to His arrest and what took place afterwards.

Listen again to what we learn over in Matthew 26:53-54 which took place right after Peter chopped off the ear of one of the soldiers arresting the Lord which we will get to in just a minute. It says this as Jesus spoke ⁵³**Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?** ⁵⁴**How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"**

So Jesus is taken into custody and then we have verse 47 which says this ⁴⁷**And one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck**

the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. One of those with Jesus had a sword and if you remember these men had been snoozing right before this and they are still just waking up and they haven't had any coffee yet to help them along so I get the idea that this person swung wildly probably trying to take the head off the soldier.

Now in Mark's gospel we don't get the information about who this was who swung the sword but John the apostle when he wrote his gospel was quick to rat out Peter as the one who had done this.

We also learn in Luke's account of this taking place that the Lord Jesus actually healed the man's ear supernaturally. It's a good thing too because this man whose name was Malchus was someone that served under the authority of the high priest and if Peter had been arrested for doing this certainly the penalties would have been severe.

Isn't it amazing how Jesus so often covers our failures as we go through life? I'm so thankful for the mercies of God that are so abundant.

It's equally amazing to me that this is the final miracle recorded before the death of Jesus and it was done on behalf of an enemy. Malchus would always have what Jesus had done etched in his mind.

Look at verses 48-50 which say ⁴⁸**Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? ⁴⁹I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled."**

⁵⁰**Then they all forsook Him and fled.**

Jesus is seen here rebuking those who were there to arrest Him, simply saying that they could have easily arrested Him while He was in the city.

Perhaps Jesus is trying to appeal to them to cause them to realize that He had been in very public places on numerous occasions and was without weapon and yet here they are arresting Him in the night time, outside the city with an awful lot of weaponry.

Notice two more things here.

First that Jesus says the scriptures had to be fulfilled. Jesus knew that everything must take place as it had been written...and that meant suffering was heading His way, that betrayal had taken place in His life, that the sheep would be scattered.

And that's the second thing I want you to notice here. That the sheep were scattered, that the disciples fled the scene, that everything Jesus had said would happen certainly did take place.

What a sad day for the disciples and yet I am reminded again that the Lord was not yet finished with them. They would be redeemed, forgiven, restored, empowered and used mightily to advance the kingdom of God.

Look at verses 51-52 which say this ⁵¹ **Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around *his* naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, ⁵² and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.**

Well we can't say this definitively as the scriptures don't elaborate on it but many believe that this is probably the writer of the Gospel of Mark himself. His name is John Mark and it is thought that he was this

young man that followed Jesus and as Jesus was arrested those in authority began to come against this young man as well...and he in response left his cloak and fled from the scene naked.

It's a sad scene that we have just walked through this evening. Jesus is here going through the worst time of His life. This will lead to numerous beatings that would come upon Him and eventually lead to the cross.

Jesus is submitting to this in submission to the will of the Father. He knows that His death means the redemption of humanity. He knows that as He dies that the sins of the world will be placed upon Him and that He will take the wrath of God that is reserved for you and I.

As we close tonight I just have to ask you if you have personally recognized what Jesus has done for you on the cross? Have you accepted Jesus Christ in your heart for the forgiveness of sins? Have you made the choice to turn from a life away from Jesus and instead embraced what Jesus has done for you?

If not, the Bible is clear that no one can come to the Father unless they accept Jesus in their heart. The Bible is clear that there is no acceptable sacrifice for sin except one...and that is the sacrificing of the pure spotless lamb who is Jesus Christ.

So tonight if you need to accept Jesus in your heart I just encourage you to come forward after we close as I would love to pray with you. Let's pray and we'll worship.

Mark 14:27-52 “Betrayed and Abandoned”

Cross References

Verses 27-28

1 John 1:9

John 16:19-20

Verses 29-31

Luke 22:31-32

Verses 35-36

Luke 22:41-44

Hebrews 5:7-8

Psalms 75:8

Isaiah 51:17

Jeremiah 25:15-16

Verse 46

Luke 4:28-30

Matthew 26:53-54