

# SERMON NOTES:

Series: Mark -The Simple Gospel | Week 49: Why People Abandon Jesus

**Mark 14:43-72 (NLT)**

## **Jesus Is Betrayed and Arrested**

<sup>43</sup> And immediately, even as Jesus said this, 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. <sup>44</sup> 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." <sup>45</sup> As soon as they arrived, Judas walked up to Jesus. "Rabbi!" he exclaimed, and gave him the kiss.

<sup>46</sup> Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him. <sup>47</sup> But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest's slave, slashing off his ear.

<sup>48</sup> Jesus asked them, "Am I some dangerous revolutionary, that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? <sup>49</sup> Why didn't you arrest me in the Temple? I was there among you teaching every day. But these things are happening to fulfill what the Scriptures say about me."

<sup>50</sup> Then all his disciples deserted him and ran away.

**It is not the Sanhedrin authority directing these events, but Jesus who was in control.**

<sup>51</sup> One young man following behind was clothed only in a long linen shirt. When the mob tried to grab him, <sup>52</sup> he slipped out of his shirt and ran away naked.

## **Jesus before the Council**

<sup>53</sup> They took Jesus to the high priest's home where the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law had gathered. <sup>54</sup> Meanwhile, Peter followed him at a distance and went right into the high priest's courtyard. There he sat with the guards, warming himself by the fire.

<sup>55</sup> Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find evidence against Jesus, so they could put him to death. But they couldn't find any. <sup>56</sup> Many false witnesses spoke against him, but they contradicted each other. <sup>57</sup> Finally, some men stood up and gave this false testimony: <sup>58</sup> "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this Temple made with human hands, and in three days I will build another, made without human hands.'" <sup>59</sup> But even then they didn't get their stories straight!

<sup>60</sup> Then the high priest stood up before the others and asked Jesus, "Well, aren't you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?" <sup>61</sup> But Jesus was silent and made no reply. Then the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

<sup>62</sup> Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven."

<sup>63</sup> Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said, "Why do we need other witnesses? <sup>64</sup> You have all heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?"

"Guilty!" they all cried. "He deserves to die!"

<sup>65</sup> Then some of them began to spit at him, and they blindfolded him and beat him with their fists.

"Prophecy to us," they jeered. And the guards slapped him as they took him away.

## **Peter Denies Jesus**

<sup>66</sup> Meanwhile, Peter was in the courtyard below. One of the servant girls who worked for the high priest came by <sup>67</sup> and noticed Peter warming himself at the fire. She looked at him closely and said, “You were one of those with Jesus of Nazareth.”

<sup>68</sup> But Peter denied it. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said, and he went out into the entryway. Just then, a rooster crowed.

<sup>69</sup> When the servant girl saw him standing there, she began telling the others, “This man is definitely one of them!” <sup>70</sup> But Peter denied it again.

A little later some of the other bystanders confronted Peter and said, “You must be one of them, because you are a Galilean.”

<sup>71</sup> Peter swore, “A curse on me if I’m lying—I don’t know this man you’re talking about!” <sup>72</sup> And immediately the rooster crowed the second time.

Suddenly, Jesus’ words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me.” And he broke down and wept.

*“He used his own shame as a magnet to draw others to Christ. That is what Peter did. He told people, ‘I hurt him and I let him down like that, and still he loved and forgave me – and he can do the same for you.’ When we read this passage with understanding, the story of Peter’s cowardice becomes an epic of courage and the story of his shame becomes a tale of glory.”* **William Barclay**

## **Wrong ways in which we can respond to Jesus:**

- **Some outright reject him.**
- **Some take inappropriate action in his name.**
- **Some abandon Jesus.**

*“Many people are attracted to Christianity or come to church for social reasons or business opportunities. Others hope that Christianity will meet their emotional needs or make their problems go away. Yet when temptations, difficulties, or hardships come, they decide it is not worth it and move on to other self-help fads. They are like the seed that falls on rocky ground in Jesus’ parable, who receive the Word with joy but then fall away when trouble or persecution comes. (4:16-17)”* **Mark L. Strauss**

*“Peter’s story reminds us that God loves us despite our failings, and like the loving father in the parable of the prodigal son, he is always waiting with open arms to welcome us back into full fellowship with him.”* **Mark L. Strauss**