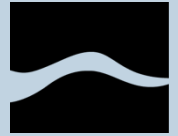


SERMON NOTES

TELL ME ABOUT VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

Mark 14:43-52



BIG IDEA: Jesus willingly surrendered himself into the hands of sinners so that sinners could be saved.

APPLICATION GUIDE

AUGUST 23, 2026

DISCUSS

When have you volunteered for something difficult that you could have avoided? What made you willing to do it?

How does knowing that Jesus willingly surrendered himself change the way you think about his betrayal, arrest, and death?

EXPLORE

What details emphasize the treachery of Judas's betrayal? What details show that Jesus willingly allowed himself to be seized?

How does the response of "one of those who stood by" contrast with Jesus' response to his arrest? What does Jesus' statement, "Let the Scriptures be fulfilled," reveal about why he willingly surrendered?

How does the disciples' abandonment fulfill Jesus' prediction in verse 27? What does their flight teach us about the unique work Jesus had to accomplish alone?

APPLY

Judas reminds us that proximity to Jesus is not the same as faith in Jesus. Are there ways you might be relying on your knowledge, church involvement, ministry, or Christian background rather than genuinely knowing, loving, and trusting Christ?

Peter had good intentions, but his actions were contrary to God's plan. Where might you need to ask not merely, "Do I mean well?" but, "Is what I am doing faithful to God's Word?"

Jesus willingly faced abandonment, yet because of his saving work, those who belong to him will never be abandoned by God. Where do you presently feel alone, and how should Christ's promise never to leave or forsake you change the way you face it?

COMMIT

Because Jesus willingly surrendered himself for me, what is one area of my life—my plans, ambitions, relationships, possessions, body, or future—that I need to surrender more fully to him this week?