

# Sermon One: The Night Everyone Fled

📅 Date Delivered	April 5, 2026
☰ Lesson Number	Sermon One
☰ Primary Scripture	Mark 14:27–50; 53–54; 66–72
☰ Speaker	Tyronne McCreary
☰ Summary	What happens when we stumble because God’s way doesn’t match our expectations? The cross reveals what remains unsundered, and resurrection power restores after failure.

## HIM – Sermon One: The Night Everyone Fled

**Date:** 4/5/26



**Primary Text:** Mark 14:27–50; 53–54; 66–72

### Main Question

What happens when you’re made to stumble because of the One you’ve chosen to follow?

### Key Theme

The night Jesus was arrested did not just reveal the weakness of the disciples. It revealed how easily people can stumble when God's way does not match their expectation.

**The cross does not only save. It also reveals.**

It exposes fear, pride, self-confidence, misunderstanding, distance, and the need for surrender.

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## I. Foundational Scripture

**Mark 14:27**

"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.'"

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## II. The Warning: Jesus Already Knew They Would Stumble

Jesus did not present their failure as a possibility. He declared it as something that would happen.

The disciples had walked with Him, heard Him, and seen His power, but there was still something in them that had not yet been tested.



### **Word Study: "Stumble" (skandalizō)**

- to be offended
- to be trapped by a snare
- to be tripped up
- to fall because of something unexpected



**Truth:** We often do not stumble over what is obvious. We stumble over what we did not expect God to allow.

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### III. The Confidence of the Flesh

#### Mark 14:29

*"Peter said to Him, 'Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be.'"*

Peter was sincere, but he was also self-confident.

His problem was not passion. His problem was trust in himself.



**Key Lesson:** Zeal without surrender produces instability.



**Important Truth:** The greatest danger is not weakness, but strength that has never been surrendered to God.

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### IV. Conviction Must Be Tested

#### Mark 14:30–31

Jesus tells Peter that before the rooster crows twice, he will deny Him three times.

Peter responds even more strongly, insisting he never will.

The disciples were not necessarily pretending. Their conviction felt real. But conviction that has not been tested is still unproven.



**Key Lesson:** It is possible to mean what you say in a moment of confidence and still collapse in a moment of pressure.

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### V. What Changed?

#### Mark 14:48–50

Jesus is arrested, and all the disciples forsake Him and flee.

Nothing about Jesus changed:

- He was still the Savior
- still powerful
- still faithful
- still the Messiah

What changed was the disciples' ability to understand what God was doing.



**Main Point:** They did not run because they knew what was going to happen. They ran because they did not know.

### **Luke 18:31–34**

Jesus had already told them He would suffer, be killed, and rise again, but they did not understand what He meant.



**Truth:** Faith is easy when outcomes are predictable. Real faith is forged in uncertainty.

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## **VI. They Did Not Misidentify Jesus — They Misunderstood Him**

The disciples were not wrong about who Jesus was. They were wrong about how He would work.

They expected:

- a reigning King
- political deliverance
- visible victory
- immediate dominion

They did not understand:

- the suffering servant

- the cross before the crown
- redemption through death
- victory through surrender

### **Luke 24:21**

*"But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel..."*



**Key Lesson:** They stumbled not because Jesus was false, but because He did not fit their expectation.



**Write This Down:** You do not stumble over what you understand. You stumble over what you refuse to accept.

### **Isaiah 55:8**

*"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.*

### **Luke 24:26**

*"Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"*



**Key Lesson:** God will not conform to our expectation. He will confront it.

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## **VII. We Stumble When God Does Not Meet Our Expectations**

The disciples are not alone in this. We do the same.

We trust God until:

- obedience brings resistance
- calling brings pressure

- faith leads us into pain
- God stops being predictable



**Truth:** We do not always walk away from God, but we often struggle with the version of Him we are experiencing.



**Write This Down:** We stumble when God refuses to be predictable.

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## VIII. Peter Followed at a Distance

### Mark 14:53–54

Peter followed Jesus, but from afar.

He had not completely left, but he was no longer close.

### What Distance Looks Like

- still attending, but not surrendered
- still serving, but not connected
- still believing, but not obeying



**Key Lesson:** *Distance does not always mean departure. Sometimes it means disengagement.*



**Warning:** Distance makes denial easier.

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## IX. Distance Leads to Denial

### Mark 14:66–72

Peter denies Jesus three times.



### **Word Study: "Deny"**

- to disown
- to reject association
- to refuse identification

Peter's distance created room for disassociation.



**Key Lesson:** *Distance does not just weaken your walk. It distorts your identity.*

When following Jesus starts costing something, people discover how stable or unstable their footing really is.

We may not deny Him with our mouths, but our lives can still distance themselves from Him.



**Truth:** *Pressure reveals what proximity never transformed.*

## **X. Jesus Intercedes in Human Weakness**

**Luke 22:32**

*"But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."*

Jesus did not pray that Peter would avoid testing. He prayed that Peter's faith would not come to an end.



**Key Lesson:** Pressure reveals what proximity never transformed.



**Important Truth:** *Proximity gives access, but only surrender produces transformation.*

### **1 Corinthians 10:12**

"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."

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## **XI. The Real Problem**

We do not stumble because we do not love Him.

We stumble because we do not fully understand Him and have not fully died to trusting ourselves.

### **Matthew 16:24**

"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself..."

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## **XII. Jesus Understands Human Weakness**

### **Hebrews 4:15**

"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."

Jesus is not distant from our struggle. He understands sorrow, pressure, anguish, and the weight of surrender.

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## **XIII. The Garden: The Cup and the Death of Self**

### **Mark 14:32-36**

Jesus enters Gethsemane in deep sorrow and agony.

### **Mark 14:34**

*"My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death..."*

### **Luke 22:44**

*"His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground."*

Jesus felt the full emotional, spiritual, and physical weight of what was before Him.

## What Was the Cup?

The cup represents:

- the assigned portion
- the legal sentence
- the judgment against sin
- the full weight of wrath against unrighteousness
- the debt of sin being satisfied

The cup included:

- our sin
- our guilt
- our violation
- our transgression
- our judgment

Jesus was not shrinking from purpose. He was feeling the full cost of what purpose required.

## Surrender in the Garden

Jesus prayed more than once.

At first: "Is there another way?"

Then: "If this cup cannot pass unless I drink it, Your will be done."



**Key Shift:** The struggle moved from question to surrender.



**Key Lesson:** *Sometimes prayer is not about praying until you are heard. Sometimes it is about praying until you surrender.*



**Major Truth:** Calvary was where Jesus died, but Gethsemane was where the decision was made.



**Write This Down:** You do not prove who you are in public victory. You prove who you are in private surrender.

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## XIV. They Stumbled Over the Cross, but He Embraced It

The disciples stumbled over what Jesus was willing to embrace.

They fled from the mystery of the cross.

Jesus surrendered to the will of the Father.

Because He embraced the cup, their failure was not final.

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## XV. The Resurrection Means Failure Is Not Final

**Mark 16:1-7**

“Go, tell His disciples—and Peter...”

Why mention Peter by name?

Failure tries to rename you. Failure tries to redefine you. Failure tries to tell you that your worst moment is your final identity.

But Jesus still called him Peter.



**Key Lesson:** When God calls your name after failure, He is restoring your place.

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## XVI. Jesus Restores Relationship

**John 21:15–17**

Three times Jesus asks Peter, “Do you love Me?”

This is not humiliation. This is restoration.



**Key Lesson:** Jesus does not interrogate failure. He restores relationship.

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## XVII. Resurrection Power Restores and Recommissions

**Mark 16:14–15**

Jesus rebukes the disciples for unbelief, then sends them to preach the gospel.

**Acts 2:14**

*“But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice...”*

The one who fled now stands.

The one who denied now declares.

The one who collapsed now leads.



**Final Truth:** The resurrection does not just forgive your past. It empowers your future.

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## Key Takeaways

- The cross reveals what has not yet been surrendered.
- We often stumble when God works in ways we do not understand.
- Distance from Jesus makes denial easier.
- Pressure exposes what proximity alone cannot transform.

- Jesus understands our weakness and intercedes for us.
  - The garden teaches surrender before the cross.
  - Failure is not final for the one who returns to Jesus.
  - Resurrection power restores what fear tried to ruin.
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## Reflection Questions

1. Have I ever stumbled because God did not meet my expectations?
  2. Am I following Jesus closely, or from a distance?
  3. Is my confidence in God, or in myself?
  4. What pressure in my life is exposing areas that still need surrender?
  5. What “cup” am I struggling to accept?
  6. Have I allowed failure to rename me?
  7. Where is Jesus calling me back into relationship, identity, and purpose?
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## Closing Encouragement

The night everyone fled was not the end of the story.

Jesus was faithful in their weakness, present in their failure, and powerful in His resurrection.

Because He got up, those who ran could return.

Because He lives, stumbling does not have to become your ending.