

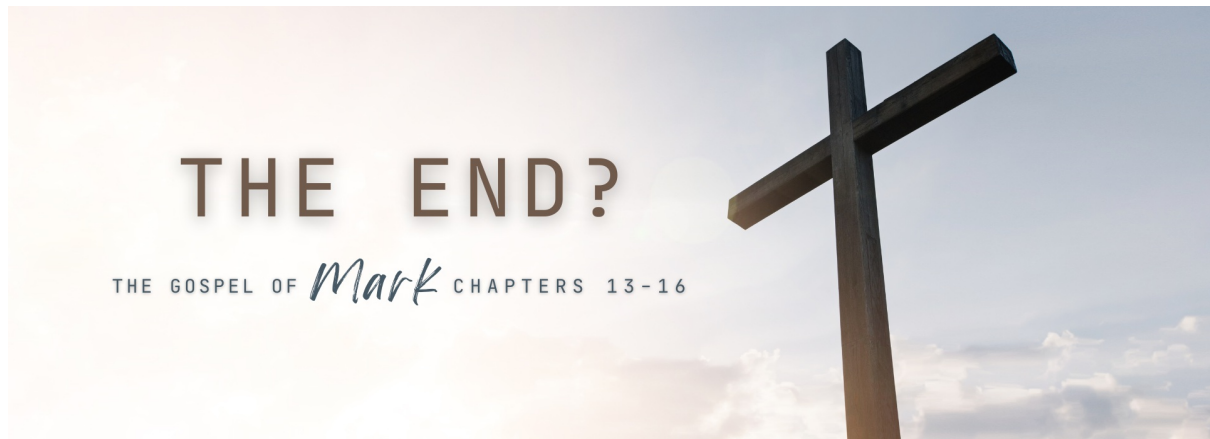
The End? - Part 4

The Arrest, Trial and Denial

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Part of The Gospel of Mark The End?

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And [Jesus] said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but

what you will.”

—Mark 14:36 (ESV)

As we begin to see the consequences of the commitment Jesus had to God, if we’re choosing to follow Jesus, that means that we’re following him through many of the same kinds of struggles he went through in order to do God’s Will.

Even as Jesus’ life is about to be placed in the hands of his enemies, God is still in control, and God’s purpose and plan will be accomplished.

And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard.” And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” And he kissed him. And they laid hands on him and seized him.

—Mark 14:43-46 (ESV)

Down through the centuries people have wondered why Judas betrayed Jesus, but the Bible doesn’t make it clear.

But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.

—Mark 14:47 (ESV)

Mark doesn’t tell us who did this, but John tells us in his gospel that it was Peter.

And Jesus said to them, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled.” And they all left him and fled.

—Mark 14:48-50 (ESV)

Jesus is calling the crowd out for being cowards for not arresting him during the day at the Temple, where he was

easy to find, and all could see what was happening.

...declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered...."

—Zechariah 13:7 (ESV)

And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

—Mark 14:51-52 (ESV)

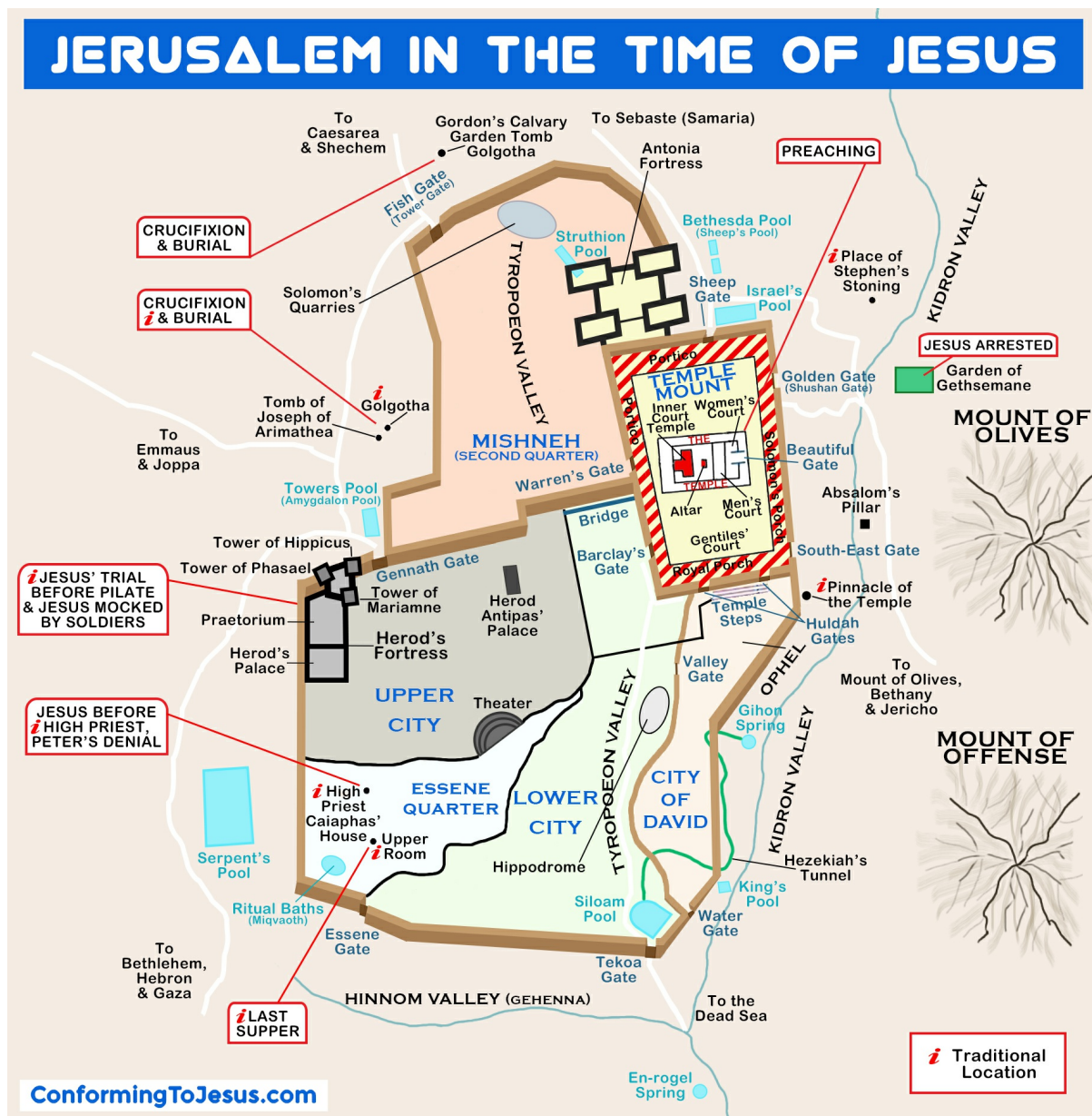
Mark shows us a striking contrast between Jesus, who courageously confesses his identity and ends up experiencing suffering and persecution, and Peter, whose fear causes him to deny his relationship with Jesus and ends up escaping suffering.

And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire.

—Mark 14:53-54 (ESV)

Though Mark doesn't give us names, other gospels tell us Jesus is being brought before the High Priest Caiaphas and the entire Sanhedrin in Caiaphas' home, setting up Jesus' confrontations with them.

JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF JESUS



Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree.

—Mark 14:55-56 (ESV)

Jewish law required two witnesses with consistent testimony to establish guilt in cases that led to the death penalty.

And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" Yet even about this their testimony did not agree.

—Mark 14:57-59 (ESV)

We have no record of Jesus ever saying this in the Bible, though Jesus had said something similar two years earlier.

Jesus: ... Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

—John 2:19 (ESV)

And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

—Mark 14:60-62 (ESV)

Jesus' "Son of Man" and "coming with the clouds of heaven" references come from Daniel 7:13 and Psalm 110:1, as Old Testament references to the coming Messiah, as Jesus looks ahead, to his second coming, when he will come in judgment and then take his place at the right hand of God.

And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death.

—Mark 14:63-64 (ESV)

In earlier times, tearing one's clothes was a sign of grief, but by the First Century it had evolved to also signifying that the person had heard something blasphemous.

And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" And the guards received him with blows.

—Mark 14:65 (ESV)

Jesus: ... See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver

him over to the Gentiles.

—Mark 10:33 (ESV)

In the meantime, Peter has been waiting down in the “courtyard” to see what would happen to Jesus.

And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.” But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you mean.” And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed.

—Mark 14:66-68 (ESV)

In the Greek language, Peter’s response is very emphatic, showing Peter was afraid of being identified as a follower of Jesus and possibly apprehended, too.

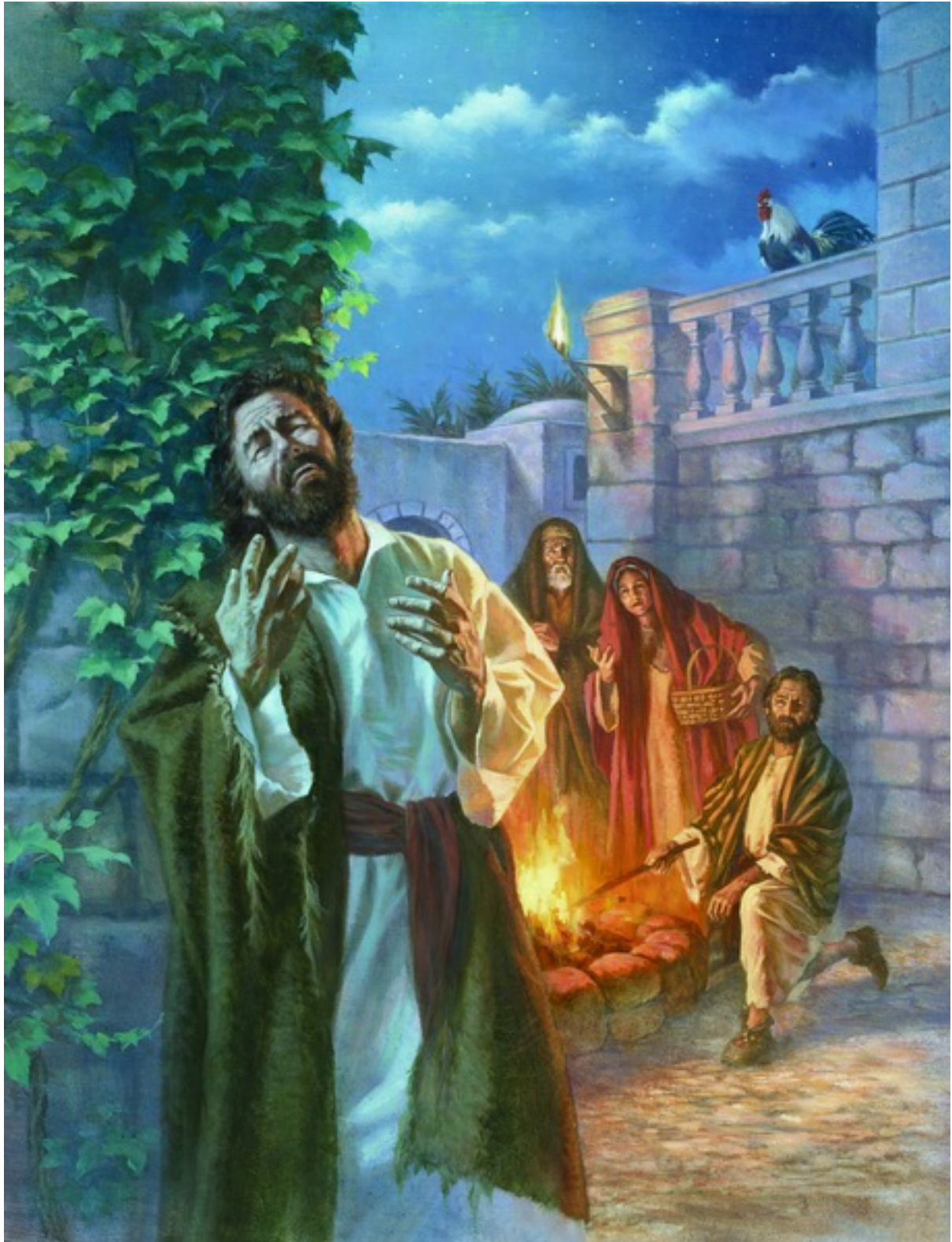
And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

—Mark 14:69-72 (ESV)

In his first two denials Peter denied any association with Jesus, but this third time he denies Jesus himself, and then the rooster crows again.

And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.”

—Luke 22:61 (ESV)



Peter's later restoration by the risen Jesus offers followers of Jesus hope that even if they do fail, there is a way forward for them to repent and receive forgiveness and restoration.

Next Week:

- **Good Friday: The End?** - *Crucifixion and Death* (Mark 15:21-47)
- **Easter: The End?** - *Resurrection* (Mark 16)