

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"THE FAITHFUL ONE BETRAYED" | MARK 14: 43-52 | PASTOR ANDREW LACASSE

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What story, movie or song comes to mind with the word "betrayal"?

"Prophetic Background" Mark 14: 49

Jesus had predicted the religious leaders would seize Him, and this was to fulfill prophecies like in Isaiah 52-53. **What are ways Jesus was a threat to religious leaders? How can Christ followers avoid falling into the same issues?**

"The Betrayal and Arrest" Mark 14: 43-49

Judas was one of the 12 closest to Jesus when he betrayed Him. Jesus points out He is no thief and they were afraid of the crowd. **What does Judas' actions show about greed and money? How can Jesus followers set aside their own desires and trust Him?**

"Jesus Responds and the Others Run " Mark 14: 49-52

Jesus submits to the arrest. His followers run away, especially after one was almost seized. **What does Jesus' response to the betrayal show about Him? Why is following Jesus a threat to safety sometimes?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus was betrayed by a follower out of greed, attacked by religious leaders trying to protect their reputation and position, and abandoned by friends out fear for safety. He willingly suffered all this to obey His Father and to save the world. **What are you pursuing or protecting that could lead you to betray or abandon Jesus? How can you follow Jesus' example of sacrifice this week? Pray God would remove your false views of Him and ask Him to remind you of His faithfulness.**

The Faithful One Betrayed

Mark 14:43-52

43 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.

44 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." 45 And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him. 46 And they laid hands on him and seized him. 47 But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. 48 And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? 49 Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled." 50 And they all left him and fled.

51 And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, 52 but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

Near Background

- Brief history of escalating tension with religious leaders.
 - This is a scene that has been a long time coming. Jesus has spent three years of ups and downs in popularity. He knew when He left from Galilee to Bethany to raise Lazarus that this would be the outcome, and the disciples seem to have also. He caused a buzz in the temple and now it's come.
 - **Mark 14:1-2**
It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, 2 for they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people."
 - Jesus has been going between Bethany, just outside Jerusalem, and the temple for about a week. Seems to have gone repeatedly to Gethsemane to pray.
- Messianic expectation of Passover
- Jesus' predictions (within Mark's gospel) of His betrayal, death, and resurrection
 - **First Prediction – After Peter's Confession**

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

- **Second Prediction – On the way through Galilee**

Mark 9:31 for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.”

- **Third Prediction – On the road to Jerusalem**

Mark 10:33–34 “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. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.”

Prophetic Background

- Mention Is. 52-53: God’s Servant was always predicted to suffer for His people’s sins.
- Read Ps. 55: betrayal and desire to flee and call down justice.

The Betrayal and Arrest

- The ways Judas is referred to are telling: “one of the twelve” and “the betrayer”.
- He does not try to escape or fight or stun with His words. He submits not so much to men but to the prophesied plan of God. His Kingdom is not of (not from but for) this world.

Three Perspectives on Jesus:

- Judas saw Jesus as a means to an end (money)
- The Sanhedrin saw Him as a threat to their glory (Matt. 27:18).
- The disciples came to see Him as a risk to their well-being.
- Jesus is none of these and all of these.
 - He is not a means to an end, but the end itself.
 - He is not a threat to our glory, but to our vanity.
 - He is not a threat to our well-being, but to our safety.

Response

- Ask what Jesus is to you. Is He one of these, perhaps a combination or something else entirely?
- Because He willingly sacrificed Himself for you, how can you lay down your view of Him for who He truly is. Where is He leading you to sacrifice? Somewhere in that sacrifice is a laying down of a false view of God.
- **2 Timothy 2:13** if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.
- **Hebrews 13:5** Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
 - You may need to set aside the thing you hope Jesus will bring you and let the one who lost all give you everything.
 - You may need to set aside your reputation or view of yourself and let the dishonored One glorify you.
 - You may need to set aside the damage of a relationship (gotten hurt, fear of trust, need for forgiveness) and let the one who was betrayed be faithful to you.
 - You may need to set aside your sense of security, and let the one who was destroyed give you life.

Mark 8:35

For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.