

Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church
Mark 14:27-31 | A Bad Case of the Normals

October 3, 2021

WELCOME:

- Please turn your Bibles to Mark 14:27-31
- Bibles in back—our gift to you.

REVIEW:

Last Sunday, we dived into the deep end of the pool with the Lord's Supper.

Jesus taught the Disciples how the Passover pointed to Him as the Lamb that would be slain.

We learned how bread and wine are symbols.

Did you know those symbols began before the Exodus?

Just the other day, I was reading through Genesis in my quiet time, and these symbols show up in Genesis 14:18 with Abram and Melchizedek!

The bread represents the maimed, scarred, and broken body of Jesus.

And the wine representing His blood that had to be shed to satisfy God the Father's wrath for our sin.

It's called propitiation.

And then we celebrated the Lord's Supper together as a reminder of who Jesus Christ is—***The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*** (John 1:29).

The Lord's Supper is also a reminder of what Jesus has done—endured the judgment of God for our sin—on our behalf.

In other words, Jesus took your place.

Why did Jesus step in and endure the wrath of God on your behalf?

So that you could have peace with God the Father and enjoy the presence of Jesus for eternity.

INTRODUCTION:

We ended last week's lesson with verses 25 and 26.

Mark 14:25—*Truly I tell you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.*"

Mark 14:26— *After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

Now, even though it looked like Jesus and the Eleven disciples left that meal and were headed out to the mount of Olives at that time, we learn from John's Gospel that Jesus continued to teach.

Now the Gospels don't contradict one another.

Please keep in mind that we must incorporate all the Gospels together to understand the whole story.

That's why we have four gospels.

Each Gospel writer had a different theme and audience for writing.

They all have the same message. ^{And} Each author was divinely inspired to write.

But each writer had a different audience for a specific purpose.

And when you start placing all these gospels together— that's when you see the Gospel story in high definition.

All four Gospels are complementary— not contradictory.

God's Word is not one-dimensional. In other words, it's not flat - it's not boring.
It's in 3-D.

God's Word is a revelation about a person—Himself—in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

So Mark's audience was the Romans, and the Romans liked action.

That's why Mark moves so quickly. It's almost an abbreviated version of Jesus' life.

All that to say this—we have several things that happened last week that were not in Mark's Gospel.

So what I would like to do is back up just a bit before we come to today's text.

This will take me a few minutes,
From last week, Jesus says...

cf. **Mark 14:25**—*Truly I tell you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.*"

This statement from Jesus upset the disciples.

John's gospel tells us how Jesus now moves from this statement into a time of extended teaching.

Now keep in mind that this is the last time that Jesus will formally teach His Disciples.

So Jesus sees that they're upset, and he comforts them in John 14:1-4.

+ **cf. John 14:1**—“Don't let your heart be troubled.

then

Jesus goes on to tell the Disciples about the Holy Spirit in John 14:15-31.

+ **cf. John 14:16**— *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever.*

Jesus ^{continues} goes on gives the Disciples the analogy of the vine and the branches in John 15:1-17.

+ **cf. John 15:5**—*I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.*

He tells them the world will hate them in John 15:18-25.

+ **cf. John 15:18**— *“If the world hates you, understand that it hated me before it hated you.*

+ **cf. John 15:19**— *If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you.*

That message didn't go over well, so...

Jesus comforts ^{the Disciples} them again and tells them more about the Holy Spirit in John 15:26-16:15.

+ **cf. John 16:1**— *“I have told you these things to keep you from stumbling.*

Jesus goes on and tells them again about His death and resurrection and how their sadness will be turned to joy in John 16:16-33.

cf. John 16:20—Truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy.

Jesus then prays for Himself in what we now call the High Priestly Prayer in John 17:1-26.

cf. John 17:5— Now, Father, glorify me in your presence with that glory I had with you before the world existed.

Jesus also prays for the Disciples...

cf. John 17:9—"I pray for them. I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they are yours.

cf. John 17:14— I have given them your word. The world hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

cf. John 17:15— I am not praying that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

And then Jesus prays for you—He prays for His Church.

cf. John 17:20—"I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word.

"Their word"—The Disciples. Because they wrote down Jesus' words.

cf. John 18:1— After Jesus had said these things, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

And it's only now, after all that teaching from Jesus, that we can come back to the Gospel of Mark.

This is where we ended up last week...

X **Mark 14:26**— *After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

Most likely, this hymn was a refrain from Psalm 118 or 136.

It's called a Hallel psalm which means "praise the Lord."

The chorus is "His faithful love endures forever."

X **cf. Psalm 136:1**— *Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His faithful love endures forever.*

X **cf. Psalm 136:2**— *Give thanks to the God of gods.
His faithful love endures forever.*

X **cf. Psalm 136:3**— *Give thanks to the Lord of lords.
His faithful love endures forever.*

So it's only after the Disciples sang this refrain that we come to our text today.

Why is that important? Because Jesus drops another bomb on them.
What's the bomb today?

Let's find out!

X **Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.**

SCRIPTURE: Mark 14:27-31 CSB

Mark 14:27— Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will fall away, because it is written:

***I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered.***

Mark 14:28— But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

Mark 14:29— Peter told him, "Even if everyone falls away, I will not."

Mark 14:30— "Truly I tell you," Jesus said to him, "today, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times."

Mark 14:31— But he kept insisting, "If I have to die with you, I will never deny you." And they all said the same thing.

PRAY:

***I pursue the way of your commands,
for you broaden my understanding.***

(Psalm 119:32)

EXEGESIS:

Mark 14:27— Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will fall away, because it is written:

***I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered.***

Notice that word, "all."

It means every Disciple will desert Jesus. Why?

✦ Jesus says, "*because it is written.*"

Jesus knows His OT.

He has no doubt that the Disciples who He is poured His life into—

The men that will turn the world upside down— (Acts 17:6)

Will all turn on Him in just a few hours.

Jesus then provides His proof text for the Disciples from the OT prophet Zechariah in chapter 13:7.

✦ **Zechariah 13:7**—*Sword, awake against my shepherd, against the man who is my associate— this is the declaration of the Lord of Armies. Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones.*

This is a significant verse so let's spend some time here.

cf. **Zechariah 13:7**—*Sword, awake against my shepherd,*

I'm not sure I like the sound of that.

The sword is a picture of God's judgment against the Shepherd.

It emphasizes the violent nature of the Good Shepherd's death.

✦ cf. **Zechariah 13:7**—*against the man who is my associate...*

By quoting Zechariah, Jesus is emphasizing that as the Messiah, He is both truly man and truly divine.

We see that Jesus' humanity is evident —and against the man.

Where do we see Jesus' divinity?

This is not so obvious—this takes some digging.

The text goes on to say, "who is my associate."

The word "associate" is a noun in the Hebrew—'āmīt. (Aw-meet)

āmīt means "my fellow."

The picture is a very unique "Fellowship" between God the Father and the Good Shepherd.

They are connected together in unity of essence.

They have the same substance.

In other words, they are one—and they are equal.

And, to be equal with God, The Good Shepherd must actually be God.

So Jesus reverts his humanity & divinity.

Zechariah 13:7—Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered;

The most remarkable thing about verses 7 through 9 is that they describe God the Father as the one striking the Shepherd.

This is not an isolated case.

Isaiah gives us the same picture.

+ *Jesus*
Isaiah 53:4—Yet he himself bore our sicknesses,
 and he carried our pains;
 but we in turn regarded him stricken,
 struck down by God, and afflicted. *—we thought he did something wrong*

+ **Isaiah 53:6**— We all went astray like sheep;
 we all have turned to our own way;
 and the YHWH has punished him
 for the iniquity of us all.

+ *work*
Isaiah 53:10— Yet the YHWH was pleased to crush him severely.

Dear friends, make no doubt about it; this was God's plan all along.

That God must punish and crush **Himself** in His own humanity.

This promise goes all the way back to Genesis 3:15.

Pause...let me ask you this.

Is the Good Shepherd guilty of anything?

Does God the Father have a **problem** with the Good Shepherd?

No, the problem is with the sheep.

If you go on to read the Zechariah passage, the flock has to be refined.

The fire must be cranked up. **They** must be tested like gold.

Then why does God strike The Good Shepherd as the Messiah instead of the sheep? *—why An innocent man?*

Because it's the role of a shepherd to suffer with the flock despite his innocence.

+ **Zechariah 13:7**— and the sheep will be scattered;

The sheep are the Disciples; we'll see that here in a moment.

+ **Zechariah 13:7**—...I will turn my hand against the little ones.

In other words, even the common, everyday, ordinary Jewish people will suffer because of Israel's national rejection of the Messiah.

So let's get back to Mark's Gospel ^{U. 27} and ~~land this plane.~~

+ **Mark 14:27**— Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will fall away..."

Fall away—*skandalizō* (scandal) communicates serious spiritual failure.

Every Disciple will desert Jesus—every single one.

And even though it's temporary—it's sobering and significant.

We'll get to why in a moment.

+ **Mark 14:28**— But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

Jesus gets back to the main point at hand—His death and resurrection.

Although Jesus has taught ^{Disciples} them about His death and resurrection many times, ^{they} the disciples never understood it.

And if you don't understand something, you can't obey it completely and willingly.

So the Disciples never obeyed this order by Jesus to meet Him in Galilee.

+ **Mark 14:29**— Peter told him, "Even if everyone falls away, I will not."

This is typical Peter.

It's like Peter interrupts Jesus as Jesus is providing them critical instructions on what to do and how to do it after the resurrection.

Peter cut's Jesus off...and starts to talk over Him.

The important thing to note is that this is the second time Jesus tells the Disciples that they will all fall away.

The first time was before the Passover Supper.

cf. Luke 22:31— *"Simon, Simon, look out. Satan has asked to sift you like wheat."*

Note, that Jesus calls Peter, Simon in this verse.

He calls him Simon, because he's not acting like the rock.

He's acting like his old self
Peter's focus is on Peter. *Me, myself and I.*

In other words, Jesus is saying, "Satan is ^{After you} seeking to shake you violently, as one ~~does wheat~~ ^{with} to cause you to fall." (Amos 9:9).

Luke goes on...

cf. Luke 22:32— *But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And you, when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."*

A couple of things to note here:

1. Satan has to ask permission from Jesus. Satan doesn't act on his own authority. Satan is the devil, make no doubt, BUT he is God's devil.

2. Jesus says "yes" to Satan's request. Jesus goes on to say that I've prayed for you. But make no doubt, you will be sifted.

We have a huge life lesson here.

Does that disturb you? That Jesus said "yes" to Satan?

Where else in Scripture does God say "yes" to Satan's request?

Our Brother Job!

cf. Job 1:6—One day the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them.

cf. Job 1:7—The Lord asked Satan, "Where have you come from?" "From roaming through the earth," Satan answered him, "and walking around on it."

cf. Job 1:8—Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job?"

deny...
In other words, why don't you give Job your best shot?"

Why would a Good Good Father tell Satan to have at Job?

Answer: Because if it weren't for the testing and the trials of life, Job wouldn't be able to say...

cf. Job 13:15—Even if he kills me, I will hope in him.

cf. Job 42:5—I had heard reports about you, *-look* but now my eyes have seen you.

In other words, without the trials, Job would have never experienced God as he did.

And that's exactly how Jesus is preparing the Disciples at this moment.

But Peter's not listening.

Mark 14:29— Peter told him, "Even if everyone falls away, I will not."

Peter doesn't like the sound of truth—it's not in his plan to betray Jesus.

And because it's not in his plans, he objects and tells Jesus that Jesus is wrong.

Peter is telling Jesus that Jesus better gets on Peter's plan.

Peter is not shocked that some of the disciples might "fall away."

But he? Never!

Maybe Peter even expects some of his friends to turn into cowards.

But not him. He doesn't defend his friends.

Who he defends— is himself and his cause.

Peter is the exception to the rule.

So as Peter is ranting and raving about what a faithful man of God he is, Jesus interrupts and gives him a dose of reality.

Mark 14:30— "Truly I tell you," Jesus said to him, "today, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times."

Oh boy.

In other words, Peter, your denial is not only certain; it is inevitable.

This is going to happen before sunrise.

Now, it's one thing to betray someone once, even twice, but dang...three times?

What's amazing is that Jesus called Peter, "the Rock" on whom I'll build my church. (Mt. 16:18)

Peter is Jesus' right-hand guy! He's the teacher's pet.

What's that tell you and me?

It tells me, that it's one thing for me to be up here teaching God's Word with boldness—

But my oh my, I better be very careful when I step out into the world because if Peter can crumble like that...so can I.

Mark 14:31— *But he kept insisting, "If I have to die with you, I will never deny you." And they all said the same thing.*

Peter is not convinced, even after Jesus gave him a detailed itinerary of what is about to happen over the next several hours.

Peter will not be persuaded, even by God Himself.

There are some big lessons here for us.

We can sing pretty lyrics in the safety of a church service...

Or say that "Jesus is Lord" during our quiet time...

But wow, how quickly can things change when there's just a little opposition.

Even when there is no threat of violence whatsoever—you just have someone politely disagreeing with you, or pointing and laughing at you.

Wow, how quickly our faith turns into fear or embarrassment.

We've talked about this kind of stuff over and over with our 3 Circles Evangelism training.

Peter is getting ready to find this out first hand— when he caves in just a few short hours later— in the presence of a servant girl who calls him out.

KEYPOINT 1:

Peter didn't know how weak he truly was. Nor do we.

And that's why we must be tested and tried, again and again.

What's really scary is that the ten Disciples would desert Jesus, but not Peter.

Peter has the greatest sin.

Peter denies that he knows Jesus three times! And curses His name. (Mark 14:71)

How serious is denying the Lord Jesus Christ?

cf. Matthew 10:33— *But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny him before my Father in heaven.*

cf. Mark 8:38— *For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."*

It doesn't get any more serious. Peter is walking with Judas at this point.

Mark 14:31— ^{Peter} But he kept insisting, "If I have to die with you, I will never deny you." And they all said the same thing.

Here we have that word, "all" again. -U27

So the bravado reaches an all-time high, as the other Disciples join Peter's rant.

Now, in all fairness, Peter's rant is not an idle boast.

In just a few hours Peter will grab a sword to defend Jesus at his arrest. (Mark 14:47).

Peter charges the guards and tries to protect Jesus.

Peter lunge's for the guard's throat misses and somehow cut's off his ear!

What's that tell you?

Besides the fact, that ~~the~~ Peter needs to work on his self defense skills.

They were ready to die in order to save Jesus' life.

BUT, here's the problem...

Jesus did not want his life saved!

Jesus is the Lamb of God.

His time has come.

At this point, Peter and the Disciples are wearing Jesus out with all their foolish talking—

So Jesus refuses to argue any longer because he knows His prophecies would be fulfilled.

All you have to do is skim over to verse 50.

cf. Mark 14:50—Then they all deserted him and ran away.

PREACH:

That's a pretty powerful reminder for us.

To remember how flawed and scared these men truly were at times.

Because it's easy to put these men on pedestals and to think of them as "super saints."

But the reality is that the Disciples all have a bad case of the normals.

These men all struggle with their faith—just like you and me.

Now, the disciples don't lose their faith, but they are overcome with fear.

Their inward fear reveals itself by their actions.

KEYPOINT 2:

Your behavior reveals what you truly believe about God.

The Disciples outwardly forsake Jesus.

They run away. They're all deserters.

They've gone awol.

Just a few hours prior, Jesus was giving them a lesson on humility because they were fighting over who would be the greatest.

So we see persistent pride in the lives of these men.

we see their faith

We've also seen persistent fear. mixed in

And that leads me to the underlying theme of this whole message—fear.

I mentioned a while back that something has clicked when it comes to the depravity of mankind today.

COVID has ushered in a new chapter of human depravity that impacts the entire globe.

No other generation has ever experienced ~~anything like this before.~~

~~anything like this before.~~
anything like what we have over the past year? 2 1/2

It's important to note, that I'm not really talking about the virus.

I'm talking about the fear, anger, frustration, and division resulting from COVID.

We will never go back to life as usual before COVID.

Because

The thing that "clicked" is God's judgment on the entire planet.

We have moved into a new dispensation.

A dispensation is how God deals with mankind. in certain time frames,

And it is obvious that we have entered into a dispensation of judgement.

Mankind is being judged for its sin against a holy God.

And this judgment has brought a new level of fear worldwide.

I want to go back to the key point I shared with you just moments ago.

KEYPOINT:

Your behavior reveals what you truly believe about God.

The disciples in our text today talked a big game.

But when push came to shove, they failed.

And they failed because they allowed fear to overwhelm them.

Fear is not having the faith that Jesus will deliver you.

And yet - Jesus already has through the Cross!

Fear overwhelms us because we are putting our faith in ourselves, in medicine, politicians, education rather than the One True Living God.

If you are struggling with overwhelming and all consuming fear...let me ask you this.

Really, this is a question I would like you to take to the Lord.

Ask Him, "Why am I fearful? What is the root cause of my fear?"

Fear leads to anger and the whole world is angry.

Is it getting sick?

The thought of physical pain?

Not being able to breathe?

Not having enough food or toilet paper?

Inflation?

Retirement?

Fearful of your spouse dying and being alone?

Dear friends, I would say all of those things are legitimate things that cause fear.

BUT, they are also surface level issues.

When you go to the Lord and ask Him this question about your fear, He will pull the veneer back.

Spiritual scales will fall from your eyes.

And I'm guessing that one of the reasons the whole world is fearful and angry right now is because of the thought to meet Jesus face to face on judgment day.

If you know Jesus and are a child of God, please hear me loud and clear...

there is nothing to fear—because He is your Savior! He is not your judge.

Your sin has already been judged by God the Father through Jesus Christ and His life, death, propitiation, and resurrection.

Brothers and Sisters, let me remind you—that it is written...

cf. Romans 8:37—No in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

↳ not in ourselves

—scared to die?

cf. Romans 8:38—For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,

↳ politics.

↳ Court, mandatory vaccinations, inflation, religious freedom

— Forces that we can't control

cf. Romans 8:39— nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

↳ Thinkable or unthinkable

↳ powers in heavens or on earth

Do you believe that?

↳ Dear friends, you are His; He is yours.

Then, what are you afraid of?

You've got nothing to be fearful of because you have the Holy Spirit of Almighty God living inside you—and dear friends, He's got this.

I want to close with two practical thoughts on how you may be unknowingly feeding fear.

- Difference between checking news vs. watching news*
1. The more time you spend in the world watching tv and news, listening to the radio and talk radio, and playing on social media—the more fearful you will become. And that worldly fear will lead you to be ashamed of Christ.
 2. The more news you watch, the more you will put your hope in politicians, medicine, science, and education—OR it will make you fearful and angry.

How do I know this to be true?

Because the Word of God says this in Psalm 1

+ *cf. Psalm 1:1— How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked.*

Question: Are you walking around, driving around— listening to worldly advice?

+ *cf. Psalm 1:1— or stand in the pathway with sinners*

Question: Are you standing around arguing with people and their positions on politics?

cf. Psalm 1:1— or sit in the company of mockers!

Question: How much time are you sitting with these TV personalities in your own home, listening to them and considering their positions and opinions?

- Do you know that these people hate you?
- Hate your life, belief system, everything you stand for

Please notice here—they are feeding you.

They are renewing your mind.

Notice the progression...walking, standing, sitting.

cf. Psalm 1:2— Instead, his delight is in the Lord's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.

- Who's instruction?

- You don't have time for the world.

+ KP#3

When?

You cannot stay where you are and walk with God at the same time. - We & night

Isn't that what Jesus is teaching the Disciples in our text?

If you leave the world on, you are feeding your fear with more lies.

And you are starving your soul of truth.

However, if you turn the world off, and read the Word of God like Psalm 1 says, you are feeding your soul and starving the world.

of its lies
with truth

And yet, dear friends, you get to choose today who you will feed.

Faith vs. Fear.

Peter was in the habit of telling Jesus what to do, and it didn't work out so well for him. How about you?

PRAYER:

- Ps 136 ① Give thanks to the Lord - His faithful love endures forever
- ② Give thanks to the Lord of gods
- ③ Lord of lords

Form us cursing - Disciples represent us all - Jesus & betrayal

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