

## RTS Women's Study: The Gospel of Mark

#31: Mark 14:43-72: Jesus Alone is Faithful

Intro: When Everything Unravels

### I. The Betrayal of Judas (v.43-52)

#### A. The Depth of Judas's Betrayal

- Text reminds us that Judas was "one of the twelve"—one Jesus' closest friends—who was able to "kiss" him
- It's one thing to have an enemy, but its another to have an enemy that you thought was your friend
- No greater heartbreak than betrayal—it's a dominant theme throughout literature and film. Can you think of "Judas" characters in literature/film?

#### B. Response to Judas's Betrayal

- Jesus Points out the absurdity of it
  - Arresting him with soldiers and weapons implies Jesus is a dangerous criminal trying to lead an armed rebellion
  - But, Jesus points out that he has peacefully been in the Temple every day; Why not arrest him then?
  - \*\*Judas (and the guards) did not realize Jesus's Kingdom was not of this world
- The Disciples Flee
  - One disciple tries to fight (v.47); We find out in John's Gospel that its Peter!
  - But, it quickly becomes clear there's nothing they can do but abandon Jesus in order to save their own lives
  - Who's the "young man" who fled naked? (v.51-52)

\*\*Key Application: Ever been betrayed by someone close to you? Jesus knows how you feel. Betrayal can happen to anyone, even a person perfectly righteous like Jesus.

### II. The Denial of Peter (66-72)

#### A. Remember all the Reasons Peter Had to *Not* Deny Jesus

- He had seen incredible amazing miracles—Was that not enough?
- He had walked on water—Was that not enough?
- He had been given the keys to the kingdom (Matt 16)—Was that not enough?

#### B. It Did Not Take Much to Make Peter Deny Jesus

- We might have expected Jesus's most bold and strong disciples to only deny Jesus after a long time in jail, or under painful torture
- But Peter caved in after questions from "one of the servant girls" (v.66)

**\*\*Key Applications:**

- Even the greatest saints can fall; that should bring compassion and humility
- How do you respond when someone asks what you believe and are very hostile?

### III. The Faithfulness of Jesus (v.53-65)

#### A. In the Midst of False Accusations

- Jesus was 100% innocent and sinless, yet these people wanted him dead so much that they made up false accusations
- It's one thing to lie to condemn a bad person, but how do it to condemn a good one?  
**\*\*What does that tell us about the human heart?**

#### B. In the Midst of Wrongful Condemnation

- Jesus admits that he is the "Son of Man" who will judge the world
- Thus, he is condemned for "blasphemy"
- Don't miss the irony! God himself is being accused of blasphemy against God!

#### C. In the Midst of Mocking and Hitting

- This is the beginning of the physical abuse against Jesus
- They also mocked him and made fun of him

**\*\*Key Applications:**

- Ever been falsely accused of something? People attack you for something and you are really innocent? Jesus understands
- Look at what the Son of God would endure in order to save us; what Amazing Grace!

### Discussion Groups

1. Sometimes we are mistreated by other people in our life, whether we are betrayed, abandoned, or falsely accused. How does this passage encourage you today in the mist of those things? How does this passage help you know how to respond?
2. How does the denial of Peter affect your own perception of yourself? How can this story make us both more humble and also more careful/diligent?
3. How does the faithfulness of Jesus encourage you today? What particular aspect of his faithful endurance stands out to you?