

27 "You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' - Mark 14:27 NIV

Up until this point Jesus had been in control but now the disciples' world was collapsing. Although all had vowed to Him that they wouldn't fall away, in fact every one of them did. The disciples had failed to be faithful to Jesus and now they had no leader, no plan, no hope and so they ran away.

How had Jesus described them as He foretold what would happen in Mark 14:27 NIV? One of Jesus' followers, possibly Mark, literally fled naked from the garden. If you could rewrite the script, how would you change the response of the disciples to Jesus' arrest?

In Gethsemane the disciples' disgrace is complete. They failed and fled from Jesus figuratively (or in Mark's case literally) naked from God in the garden. But this wasn't the end of the story for Jesus or for them. At times we may find ourselves standing ashamed before God over our failures. Our natural instinct is to run away, but like the disciples would eventually find out, Jesus waits for us, ready to reconcile us and welcome us back to the garden with Him.

WRAP-UP

Judas's betrayal of Jesus in Gethsemane was an act that led to Jesus' arrest and the sudden collapse of the disciples' world. Though Judas's motives are never fully explained, his intimate act of betrayal contrasts sharply with Jesus' calm surrender to God's will and His authority even in arrest. While the disciples respond with confusion, fear, and misplaced resistance, Jesus rejects violence, affirms the fulfillment of Scripture, and protects His followers. As the disciples flee in failure and shame, the scene underscores human weakness—but also reminds us that God has a plan, and that failure is not the end, because Jesus remains ready to restore those who return to Him.

MEMORY VERSE

52 "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. - Matthew 26:52 NIV

Challenge –

Look for any indicators that you are relying on yourself and your own resources to solve your problems rather than God (e.g. stress, anger, anxiety, tension). Then ask God to show you how to let go of those problems and allow Him to provide the solution and give you peace in doing so.

Jesus Betrayed and Arrested Gospel of Mark Ch. 14 - Week 5

INTRODUCTION

The name Judas has become synonymous with betrayal based on the actions of Judas Iscariot in the Garden of Gethsemane. In this portion of scripture, we watch Jesus' arrest and see His response and the responses of His disciples. There is no clear explanation of why Judas betrayed Jesus. Whatever it was that moved him down that path, Jesus' betrayal and arrest sent the disciples running as their world was turned upside down in a heartbeat.

Ice Breaker

Was there a significant event that redirected your life's course?

Key Passages

43 Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders. 44 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." 45 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. 46 The men seized Jesus and arrested him. 47 Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. 48 "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? 49 Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." 50 Then everyone deserted him and fled. 51 A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, 52 he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

- Mark 14:43-52 NIV

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. The Betrayal

14 Then one of the Twelve--the one called Judas Iscariot--went to the chief priests 15 and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. 16 From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.
- Matthew 26:14-16 NIV

Judas was not forced to betray Jesus. In Mat. 26:14 we see he went to the chief priests with an offer to betray Him. As Jesus and 11 of His disciples were gathered together in Gethsemane, the 12th disciple arrived accompanied by a crowd of armed soldiers and officials.

2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. 3 So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. - John 18:2-3 NIV

48 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." 49 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. 50 Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend." Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. - Matthew 26:48-50 NIV

48 but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" - Luke 22:48 NIV

It's hard to comprehend how Judas could turn on Jesus after 3 years of following Him closely.

Are there public displays of betrayal that you remember where individuals who were once very close became bitter enemies, perhaps in a celebrity marriage, a business partnership, a political alliance or a sports team? What are some reasons a person might turn against someone they had once been close to? What do you think may have motivated Judas?

Judas offered to kiss (Gr *phileō*) Jesus (v. 44) as a signal for His arrest. That word indicates a kiss of brotherly love. But in v.45 it says he kissed (Gr/ *kataphileō*) Jesus. The addition of "kata" to the word "phileo" denotes to kiss fervently, or repeatedly.

Perhaps Judas wanted there to be no doubt who to arrest, but how must that have felt to Jesus as He was fervently kissed in betrayal? What did Jesus call Judas after the kiss (v.50)? Why?

4 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?" 5 "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) 6 When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. John 18:4-6 NIV

*John's Gospel is the only one that records this revealing interaction between Jesus and the soldiers. He asks, "Who do you want?" or "Who do you seek?" They reply, Jesus of Nazareth and He responded with two words in Greek, *egō eimi*, or "I Am". English translations will say "I am he", but as Jesus identifies Himself with the same name as God did to Moses from the burning bush, what was the response of the soldiers?*

Jesus had bowed to the Father but He wouldn't bow before the threat of the soldiers. However, when Jesus said "I AM" they couldn't stand before Him.

2. The Arrest and the Sword

Jesus had spent time in the garden praying to His Father and had surrendered to God's will. So, He was prepared to drink from the cup of suffering that He now faced. But Jesus' disciples were not prepared for this.

46 The men seized Jesus and arrested him. - Mark 14:46 NIV

49 When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" - Luke 22:49 NIV

10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) 11 Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?" - John 18:10-11 NIV

52 "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. - Matthew 26:52 NIV

8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." - John 18:8 NIV

What did the disciples see as the solution to their problem (Lk 22:49)? How effective was their solution (John 18:10)? What do Mat 26:52 and Jn 18:8 reveal about Jesus' heart for His disciples as He was being threatened?

53 Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?" 55 In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. 56 But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled...

- Matthew 26:53-56a NIV

Peter relied on his own strength and out of loyalty to Jesus used his sword as a means of protecting Him. But in Mat 26:53 Jesus makes it clear He didn't need Peter's help.

Is there something you are currently trying to handle on your own, but you feel God is urging you to surrender to Him? What would it look like to give up trying to control it and give it over to God?

Jesus refers to scripture being fulfilled as He headed toward the cross. The Old Testament describes the anointed of God as being struck on the head by Satan, a lamb taken to slaughter, a suffering servant and more. We may not understand why God chose this path, but Jesus knew and accepted that the salvation of the world required the ultimate sacrifice, and He was willing to make that sacrifice to offer us eternal life, even if He walked the path alone.

3. When Things Don't Go Our Way

50 Then everyone deserted him and fled. 51 A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, 52 he fled naked, leaving his garment behind. - Mark 14:50-52 NIV