

avoid God, condemn yourself, try to make up for it by doing "good works"? How quickly do you approach God in repentance and receive forgiveness?

### 3. God's Love > Your Failures

*28 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."*

*- Mark 14:28 NIV*

*17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. - John 21:17 NIV*

Despite our best efforts and good intentions all of us will fall short just like Peter. But when we do, we must remember that God's love exceeds our failures. At the last supper Jesus plainly said, after I've risen, I'll go ahead of you to Galilee. Peter met Him there and Jesus forgave him and restored his calling to shepherd God's people.

*You may find it difficult to accept Jesus' forgiveness. Maybe you find it hard to forgive yourself. But Jesus is waiting for you in Galilee. If there is any unresolved guilt you are carrying, take it to Him there. Humbly admit you were wrong, you sinned, and you need to be forgiven. Jesus has already paid the price for that sin; no further suffering is required of you. He loves you and wants you to accept His gift of forgiveness.*

### WRAP-UP

Mark records Jesus' unjust trial before the Sanhedrin, where religious leaders who had already decided His fate sought false evidence to condemn Him. While Jesus remains silent and then boldly affirms His identity as the Messiah and Son of God, He is mocked, beaten, and abandoned, fulfilling Old Testament prophecy and displaying His willingness to lay down His life. At the same time, Peter follows at a distance and, just as Jesus foretold, denies knowing Him three times, ending in bitter regret when the rooster crows. The passage powerfully contrasts Jesus' faithful submission to God's will with Peter's human failure, highlighting both the cost of discipleship and the abundance of love and grace that follows Peter's denial and shame.

### MEMORY VERSE

*28 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." ... 61 But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" 62 "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." - Mark 14:28, 61-62 NIV*

**Challenge** – When the opportunity presents itself, be prepared to declare Jesus as Lord and share the good news with someone this week.

## A Prophet, Priest and Traitor Gospel of Mark Ch. 14 - Week 6

### INTRODUCTION

Mark recorded one of a series of appearances of Jesus before the authorities in chapter 14:53-72. In these verses He faces the Sanhedrin, the highest Jewish governing and judicial body. These were the very men who had sought to have him arrested and killed (Mark 14:1). The outcome of their judgements was unjustly predetermined. Mark details Jesus' interrogation and response as Peter is questioned in the garden by a servant. And although what happened to Jesus was a fulfillment of Old Testament prophesy, it does not diminish the pain we feel as He is mocked, spit on, beaten and abandoned. And while Peter keeps himself distant, he is still recognized then betrays and denies Jesus just as Jesus had foretold. Peter's shame and regret were immediate, but he could not unlive or redo what he had done.

### Ice Breaker

*What was the last thing you remember undoing and starting over on?*

### Key Passages

*53 They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. 54 Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire. ... 61 But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" 62 "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." ... 67 When she [the servant girl] saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said. 68 But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway. ... 71 He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about." 72 Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept. - Mark 14:53-54, 61-62, 67-68, 71-72 NIV*

### STUDY QUESTIONS

#### 1. Unjust Judgment

After Jesus was taken from the garden of Gethsemane he appeared before the authorities, both religious and civil, in a series of meetings where He was

questioned and judged. Mark's account begins with Jesus before the Sanhedrin.

53 They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. 54 Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire. 55 The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. 56 Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. 57 Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: 58 "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.' " 59 Yet even then their testimony did not agree. - Mark 14:53-59 NIV

18 The judges must make a thorough investigation, and if the witness proves to be a liar, giving false testimony against a fellow Israelite, 19 then do to the false witness as that witness intended to do to the other party. You must purge the evil from among you. - Deuteronomy 19:18-19 NIV

The whole Sanhedrin was looking for evidence, but not to determine the truth. What did they intend to do with the evidence they sought? How did their actions violate Old Testament Law?

Jesus was a threat to the religious leaders' positions of power and authority in Israel. Their function was to interpret the Torah, the Temple practices and to judge serious legal cases in God's name. But instead, they placed God's Messiah on trial.

60 Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" 61 But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" - Mark 14:60-61 NIV

7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. - Isaiah 53:7 NIV

In the face of false testimony Jesus chose not to defend Himself. The matter had been settled between He and His Father in the garden. Isaiah prophesied in 53:7 not only that the Messiah would remain silent, but he also paints a specific picture of a lamb to the slaughter. What does that image refer us back to? Why is that image especially appropriate on this day of the year, what was being celebrated in Jerusalem?

The chief priest had asked Jesus a two-part question; was He the Messiah, and was He the Son of the Blessed One? If He claimed to be Messiah, He was claiming to be the anointed King of Israel. If He claimed to be Son of the

Blessed One, He would be claiming deity. The first would be treason against Ceasar and the second blasphemy against God.

62 "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." 63 The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. 64 "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" They all condemned him as worthy of death. 65 Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophesy!" And the guards took him and beat him. - Mark 14:62-65 NIV

17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." - John 10:17-18 NIV

Jesus gave the same two-word response that God had used to identify Himself to Moses – I AM. The responses of those who heard Him ranged from self-righteousness of the Sanhedrin to the brutality of the guards. How did Jesus demonstrate that He was the one in control by giving a response that condemned Him to death (Jn 10:18)?

Reflect on what Jesus' response means to you. "I Am your King; I Am your God; I Am willing to suffer in your place; I Am willing to lay my life down for you." What is your response to Him?

## 2. Peter's Denial

31 But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same. ... 71 He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about." 72 Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept. - Mark 14:31, 71-72 NIV

We all have moments in our lives we wish we could "unlive and redo". This was one for Peter. He'd declared to Jesus that he would die before he would disown Him. In Gethsemane he had pulled out a sword, ineffectively attempting to defend Jesus. But when questioned by a servant girl, he failed. Despite his previous acknowledgment that "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Peter now reduced Jesus to "a man I don't know."

Peter relied on his own strength and sword to slay the enemy, but Jesus said put it away. What "swords" do we tend to rely on to make us powerful or confident? Our own abilities, wealth, intellect, politics? What makes us more comfortable with the sin of depending on ourselves to bring about the kingdom than the sin of abandoning Jesus? What might you be risking to share the Gospel and declare Jesus as King to friends or family.

*Luke's Gospel tells us Jesus looked straight at Peter as the rooster crowed. Based on his response in verse 72, describe how Peter felt? How do you typically respond when you feel you have failed God? Do you deny it, try to*