



Gospel of Mark Bible Study

Session #19 March 9th – 14th Mark 14:43-72

Tuesday 6am @LW – Tuesday 5:15pm @AV

Wednesday 10am & 6:15pm @LW

Sunday 10:30am @AV

Jesus Arrested - Mark 14:43-52 Life Application Notes

14:43-45 Judas was given a contingent of police and soldiers (John 18:3) in order to seize Jesus and bring him before the religious court for trial. The religious leaders had issued the warrant for Jesus' arrest, and Judas was acting as Jesus' official accuser.

14:47 According to John 18:10, the person who pulled the sword was Peter. Luke 22:51 records that Jesus immediately healed the man's ear and prevented any further bloodshed.

14:50 Just hours earlier, these disciples had vowed never to desert Jesus (Mark 14:31).

14:51-52 Tradition says that this young man may have been John Mark, the writer of this Gospel. The incident is not mentioned in any of the other accounts.

Study Questions:

1. What is one friendship you once had that went sour?
2. How did Jesus respond to the sight of the armed men? (14:48-49)
3. Who fled the scene? When? (14:50-52)
4. What is significant about the fact that all of Jesus' followers deserted Him? (14:50-52)
5. Why did Jesus' disciples desert Him?
6. How can we prepare for times when our dedication to Christ is tested?
7. What can you do now to prepare for times when your dedication to Christ is tested at work, at home, or around neighbors?

Before the Sanhedrin - Mark 14:53-65 Life Application Notes

14:53ff This trial by the Sanhedrin had two phases. A small group met at night (John 18:12-24), and then the full Sanhedrin met at daybreak (Luke 22:66-71). They tried Jesus for religious offenses such as calling himself the Son of God, which, according to law, was blasphemy. The trial was fixed: these religious leaders had already decided to kill Jesus (Luke 22:2).

14:55 The Romans controlled Israel, but the Jews were given some authority over religious and minor civil disputes. The Jewish ruling body, the Sanhedrin, was made up of 71 of Israel's religious leaders. It was assumed that these men would be just. Instead, they showed great injustice in the trial of Jesus, even to the point of making up lies to use against him (Mark 14:57).

14:58 The statement that the false witnesses finally agreed to use as an accusation twisted Jesus' actual words. Jesus did not say, "I will destroy this man-made temple;" he said, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days" (John 2:19). Jesus was not talking about Herod's temple, but about his own body.

14:60-64 To the first question, Jesus made no reply because it was based on confusing and erroneous evidence. Not answering was wiser than trying to clarify the fabricated accusations. But if Jesus had refused to answer the second question, it could have been taken as a denial of his mission. Instead, his answer predicted a powerful role reversal. Sitting on the right hand of power, he would come to judge his accusers, and they would have to answer *his* questions (Psalm 110:1; Rev. 20:11-13).

14:63-64 Of all people, the high priest and members of the Sanhedrin should have recognized the Messiah because they knew the Scriptures thoroughly. Their job was to point people to God, but they were more

concerned about preserving their reputations and holding on to their authority. They valued human security more than eternal security.

Study Questions:

1. When was the last time you were misunderstood or misinterpreted?
2. What did the men of the Sanhedrin want to do to Jesus? Why? (14:55)
3. What testimony did some witnesses bring against Jesus? (14:57-58)
4. What was Jesus' response to all the accusations against Him? (14:61)
5. How do you think Jesus felt during His trial? Why?
6. What can we learn about dealing with false accusations from Jesus' example?
7. How do you want to react the next time you are falsely accused or tricked?

Peter Disowns Jesus - Mark 14:66-72 Life Application Notes

14:66-67 Caiaphas's house, where Jesus was tried (Mark 14:53), was part of a huge palace with several courtyards. John was apparently acquainted with the high priest, and he was let into the courtyard along with Peter (John 18:15-16).

14:71 Peter's curse was more than just a common swear word. He was making the strongest denial he could think of by denying with an oath that he knew Jesus. He was saying, in effect, "May God strike me dead if I'm lying."

14:71 It is easy to get angry at the Sanhedrin and the Roman governor for their injustice in condemning Jesus, but Peter and the rest of the disciples also contributed to Jesus' pain by deserting him (Mark 14:50). While most of us may not be like the Jewish and Roman leaders, we are like the disciples because all of us have been guilty of denying Christ as Lord in vital areas of our lives. We may pride ourselves that we have not committed certain sins, but we are all guilty of sin. Don't try to excuse yourself by pointing at others whose sins seem worse than yours.

Study Questions:

1. What is one fact about you that most people don't know?
2. How did Peter's denial of Christ happen? (14:66-72)
3. Who in the courtyard was curious and insistent about finding out who Jesus' followers were? (14:66-70)
4. How did Peter react when he realized what he had done? (14:72)
5. In what sorts of situations are you sometimes uncomfortable or fearful about identifying with Christ or Christianity?
6. How can you affirm your faith in Christ in situations where others may be indifferent or hostile to it?
7. In what situation or context will you consciously identify with Christ publicly this week? How?

Bible Memory Verses:

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" "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: 61b-62.