



Week 3

**Jesus knew
His disciples
would
desert, deny
and betray
Him**

PERSONAL STUDY

Read Mark 14:26-31 and Mark 14: 43-51

OPENING REMARKS:

During the Last Supper with His disciples, Jesus announces that one of the twelve disciples was going to betray Him. Jesus makes the announcement to assure His disciples that He is in control of all things, even the events that were now about to take place. Also, to alert the betrayer that he was known and that he has one last opportunity to reconsider and repent. After the Last Supper, they went to the Mount of Olives.

The Mount of Olives covered quite an extensive area. It provided many suitable camping spots for pilgrims attending the feast. Finding any one group there at night, even on a clear moonlit night, would not have been easy. Jesus and his disciples had their favourite spot that they had used before on other nights, the garden of Gethsemane.

It is here that the arrest of Jesus would take place.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

Mark 14: 27-31

Read Mark 14:27 and Zechariah 13:7. During the Last Supper Jesus had announced that there was a traitor amongst them (see Mark 4:18). Now He makes another startling announcement. What is this announcement? Why will this happen?

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Following this announcement, Jesus gives them a promise.

Read Mark 14: 28. What is this promise and what does this tell us about Jesus??

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Read Mark 14: 29. How does Peter respond to Jesus' startling announcement? What does this tell us about Peter?

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Read Mark 14: 30. Jesus gives the disciples a prediction regarding Peter and the events that were to take place. What was this prediction?

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Read Mark 14:31. Peter led the group in responding to Jesus' prediction by announcing what? What did the rest of the group do along with Peter?

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Mark 14:43-51

Read Mark 14:43. Who is it that arrives as Jesus is telling the group that He is about to be betrayed? And who is with him?

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Read Mark 14:44-46. What was the sign that Judas would give to the group to identify who was the one they were looking for? What happened to Jesus?

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Read Mark 14:47. What was the reaction of one of the group disciples when Jesus was being arrested?

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Read Mark 14:48. Jesus begins to question the group regarding his arrest. What did He ask them?

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Read Mark 14:49. Jesus said that there was a specific reason that He was arrested in this manner. What was this reason?

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What does the following verses say about Jesus' arrest and trial?

Psalm 22:12-18	
Psalm 41:9	

Isaiah 53:7	
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Read Mark 14:50. What happened next to fulfill what Jesus said His disciples would do earlier that evening?

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Read Mark 14:51. What happened to the young man following the group?

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Closing remarks:

Long before the night took place, Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him. Jesus was normal enough in appearance that it was necessary for Judas to identify Him. He chose to identify Jesus by greeting Him with a kiss.

Cruelly, Judas addressed Jesus as "Rabbi," an act of respect, and then he kissed Him. Mark uses an emphasized form of that word, a word that means a

prolonged kiss, a lover's kiss. "Kissed" is the same word used of the father of the prodigal son kissing him when he comes home, or the Ephesian elders kissing the apostle Paul good-bye. Such a kiss should have indicated loyalty, affection, friendship, and trust, but Judas turned all of those characteristics upside down.

Jesus marvelled that they sent a small army to arrest Him. Yet, He was in command; with a word He could destroy all those who came to arrest Him. But Jesus went along in order to fulfill Scripture.

At this point, all the disciples scattered and ran for their own safety. A few (Peter and John at least) followed back to see what would happen at a distance. None of them stood beside Jesus and said, "I have given my life to this Man. What you accuse Him of, you may accuse me of also." Instead, it was fulfilled what Jesus said: *All of you will be made to stumble because of Me* (Mark 14:27).

To endure the persecution of enemies is one thing, the abandonment by friends is another. The former we expect, but the latter always catches us off guard. Jesus was not only betrayed by one of His own disciples, but also abandoned by the others and denied by one of his closest friends.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Prayer

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

Mark 14:26-31, 43-51

Discussion questions

Read Mark 14:27 and Zechariah 13:7. During the Last Supper Jesus had announced that there was a traitor amongst them. Now He makes another startling announcement. What is this announcement? Why will this happen?

Read Mark 14:28-31. What was Peter's reaction? What did Jesus say about this reaction?

Read Mark 14:43-45. How did Judas's agenda (reason for being there) differ from that of the armed men?

Read Mark 14:46-49. How does Jesus react to this betrayal?

What does being loyal mean to you? Discuss in the group.

What pressures in your life test your loyalty to Jesus Christ? Discuss in the group.

Close in prayer