

THE SCATTERED SHEEP AND THE STANDING SAVIOR

Mark 14:26-31

INTRODUCTION

In this passage, we continue to read of an amazing time and teaching of Jesus Christ. We have the heart of the gospel message – a Shepherd who is our Savior and who will be struck down but will ultimately stand. The true Biblical life that comes from the singular death of Christ is not accepted by the world. The world rebels against this – it is foolishness to the world.

Recall: Thursday night of Passover

- Lord's Supper
- Jesus established the Lord's table
- Old Covenant → New Covenant
- The Upper Room Discourse

Focus of Upper Room Discourse in **John 14-17**:

- Talking to His 11 Faithful – no Judas
- Chapter 14 – Oneness with the Father, Promise of the Spirit

I am: the way, the truth, the life, the vine

- Chapter 15 – Jesus the Vine
- Chapter 16:7 – Promise of the Holy Spirit (more NC fulfillment)
- Chapter 17 – High Priestly Prayer

READ Mark 14:26-42

Proposition: 4 Elements in **Mark 14:26 -31**

- 1) Steadfast Scripture
- 2) Struck-Down Shepherd
- 3) Scattered Sheep
- 4) Standing Shepherd

Mark 14:26 “And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”

Jesus and the 11 leave upper room and go toward the Mount of Olives, toward Gethsemane.

They were probably singing **Psalm 115-118**, the 2nd part of the Great Hallel – Psalms of Praise, Thanksgiving, and Trust – closing the Passover.

In his humanity, Jesus is singing these hymns with his apostles

- Read **Psalm 118: 1-6, 13-17, 24, 28-29**

1st Element ...

I. Steadfast Scripture

Point –

Mark 14:27 “And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, because it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.'”

Steadfast scripture

- the full weight of the authority and sufficiency of the Word
- its relevance, impact and binding authority on our life carries forward

Proof –

“**it is written**” – it stands written?

Read **Zechariah 13:7**

One verse from the minor prophets brings out the mystery of the crucifixion – part of His perfect plan for redemption according to His purpose – Romans 8:28

Consider This Illustration

Mormonism has been at the forefront of our media culture lately with shows like *Sister Wives* and Dr. Phil focusing on a polygamist family and a Republican presidential candidate (Romney).

The first four presidents of Mormonism were:

- Joseph Smith – 1st president, prophet, seer, and revelator

- Brigham Young – 2nd
- John Taylor – 3rd
- Wilford Woodruff – 4th

Consider these quotes from three of these presidents:

- 1) “the new and everlasting covenant, including the eternity of the marriage covenant, as also plurality of wives. ... Celestial marriage” – Joseph Smith, July 12, 1843 – *Doctrine and Covenants, section 132* – also conveniently instructs Emma Smith to receive the other wives and to only cleave to Joseph
- 2) “God is greater than the United States, and when the Government conflicts with heaven, we will be ranged under banner of heaven and against the Government. The United States says we cannot marry more than one wife. God says different ... Polygamy is a divine institution. It has been handed down direct from God. The United States cannot abolish it. No nation on earth can prevent it, nor all the nations of the earth combined ... I defy the United States; I will obey God.” – John Taylor, Jan 4, 1880
- 3) “Thus saith the Lord All commandments that I give must be obeyed by those calling themselves by my name unless they are revoked by me or by my authority ... I have not revoked this law (polygamy) nor will I for it is everlasting and those who will enter into my glory must obey the conditions thereof, even so Amen.” – John Taylor, September 26, 1886

Then the BIG change →

- 4) “Inasmuch as laws have been enacted by Congress forbidding plural marriages, which laws have been pronounced constitutional by the court of last resort, I hereby declare my intention to submit to those laws, and to use my influence with the members of the Church over which I preside to have them do likewise ... And I now

publicly declare that my advice to the Latter-day Saints is to refrain from contracting any marriage forbidden by the law of the land.” – Wilford Woodruff, October 6, 1890

Application

The reality is that all manmade religion will ebb and flow. It will change. I am so glad that we have God’s Word in a book that has fixed truth for us

- Unchanging
- Timeless

The Bible is NOT a “beautifully bound book of suggestions.”

- It is the Mind of Christ
- The Word of God
- The Bible is Absolute, Universal, and Unchanging
- It reflects the character of the Absolute, Universal, Unchanging God
- The Bible is Authority!

Because Scripture is Truth

- we proclaim it with conviction
- we proclaim it without compromise
- we proclaim it without apology

We don’t need to market it or repackage it. We need to study it and know it. Science changes, but the Word of God is steadfast.

2nd Element ...

II. Struck-Down Shepherd

Point –

Mark 14:27 “And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, because it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.'”

Proof –

“I will strike down”

God is the One striking – He shows His divinity

Zechariah 13:7 ... “**you strike**”.... – 2nd person imperative

Mark 14:27 - Jesus says – “**I will strike**” – 1st person future

- Jesus will die at the hands of godless, wicked men but God’s hands are behind the blow – directing their hands for your salvation
- The result of **Zechariah 13:7** is the future cleansing from sin and mercy to a refined remnant in Zech 13:8ff

Isaiah 53:10 “**the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.**”

Consider this illustration:

Years ago, in a Kindergarten class at Grace Community Church, I joined two other pastors, Rick Holland (Student Ministries Pastor) and Kevin Banks (Special Ministries Pastor), answering questions from the children. One of the children asked Rick what he did at the church. Rick described his position as taking care of the “young sheep,” Kevin described his responsibilities as taking care of the “broken sheep.” I shared that I was responsible for the “lost sheep.”

A Shepherd...

- Leads
- Feeds
- Cares for
- Protects

...his sheep.

Shepherds in Israel were tough guys. We tend to think of them as wimpy types, playing harps and watching their fluffy sheep graze. In fact, shepherds spent most of their time tending their animals in harsh wilderness and protecting them against predators and other threats. One of the best descriptions of this aspect of shepherding is


found in **1 Samuel 17:34-36**, when David tells Saul that he wants to fight Goliath.

- Psalm 23 – the Lord is our Shepherd
- Our Shepherd is struck down

3rd Element ...

III. Scattered Sheep

Point – When a shepherd is struck down, his sheep are frightened and bewildered and scatter in every direction –

“**fall away**” (27) –  – F/ word that describes trigger that springs a trap or snare – to cause to sin – *to put a stumbling-block*

Point here is not so much losing faith, but losing courage

Mark 14:29 “**But Peter said to Him, "Even though all may fall away, yet I will not."**”

Impulsive Peter letting his mouth run in front of him

In the parallel account in **Matthew 26:33** Peter says “**Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away.**”

Demonstrates 2 things:

- 1) Peter’s great love for Jesus (like Thomas - “let’s go down and die with Him!” – he was loyal
- 2) Ignorant of own weakness – how tightly he must stand and trust on the Word of God and not himself

Consider:

One man said that dogs must be smarter than people – they wag the tail, not the tongue

Ever think about the fact that God made us so that our ears do not shut, but our mouths do?

Prov 10:19 – “When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, But he who restrains his lips is wise.”

Application:

We have a continual need to deny self and not trust self. Trust God!

Mark 14:30 “And Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, that you yourself this very night, before a cock crows twice, shall three times deny Me."”

Peter elevates himself above the rest.

→ Peter, your failure will be greater than the rest!

Rebuke – “**Amen (last use in Mark) I say, to you that you yourself, today, this very night, before a cock crows twice ...”**

14:31 “But Peter kept saying insistently, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!"”

Peter:

- King of the overstatement
- More protest! No way!
- emphatically, again and again – imperfect

Peter has a screw loose in his head...the one that controls his tongue.

- He was big on love
- He was little on discernment

4th Element ...

IV. Standing Shepherd

Point – **Death ... then Resurrection!** (8; 9; 10)

- the resurrected (Standing-Again) **Shepherd**

- at the heart of His message is a crucified Savior who will stand again

Proof –

Mark 14:28 “**But after I have been raised,**”

⎯– emphatic contrast

- Darkness of Death vs. Light of Resurrection

We must understand → standing again!

- No resurrection without death
- The striking down is necessary!

“I will go before you to Galilee.”

Continues the image of **The Shepherd!**

- He will regather His sheep!
- There will be a joyful reunion!
- **Mark 16:7; Matt 28:16-20; 1 Corinthians 15:6**

In humble, sinless grace Jesus is willing to go to the cross and shed His blood for the proud, foolish, and sinful disciples. Although He declares they will soon be ashamed of Him and even deny Him, He is not ashamed of them. In spite of their pride, weakness, desertion, and denials, He will draw them again to Himself in perfect love. In a gracious act of divine mercy He will forgive and restore them.

The following two stanzas of a hymn tells of the beautiful truths at the center of our text today:

How Firm a Foundation

*Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!*

Application:

Courage is not the absence of fear.
Courage is the conquering of fear!

Mark 14:31 “**And they all were saying the same thing, too.**”
Peter is the leader in the Big Love-Weak Discernment march

Fulfillment is in vv. **66-72**

CONCLUSION

10/9/11