

THE BETRAYAL AND ARREST OF JESUS

Mark 14:43-52

INTRODUCTION

READ Mark 14:43-52

Proposition:

1. Judas	Marks of a False Follower	14: 43-45
2. Peter	Marks of a Defective Disciple	14:46-47
3. Jesus	Marks of a Sovereign Savior	14:48-52

So That: Betrayal and Arrest → Warning against Apostasy, Jesus is in Charge, Total Forsakenness of Jesus

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus is in all four gospels

I. Judas: Marks of a False Follower Mark 14:43-45

Point – Judas was the ultimate hypocrite

- He committed the most horrible, wicked act ever
- In him, we see the marks of a false follower
- He was one of the twelve
 - He had seen all of Jesus' compassion
 - He had heard all of Jesus' teaching
 - He had seen the words of wisdom backed up by a perfect, sinless life
 - He had seen the fellowship of the 11 disciples
- But his heart grew harder and harder
- He is the ultimate child of hell, “a devil,” and a “son of perdition”.

Mark 14:43-44

“And immediately while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came up, accompanied by a multitude with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴Now he who was betraying Him had given them a signal, saying, “Whomever I shall kiss, He is the one; seize Him, and lead Him away under guard.””

This is the last mention of Judas in Mark's gospel.

Recall:

In **John 13:30**, we see that Judas was identified by Jesus and then left the room. He hurried off to the religious leaders.

“And so after receiving the morsel he went out immediately; and it was night.”

- This is after beginning of Passover meal
- After Jesus washed the feet of His disciples
- Before Lord's Supper (Jesus will not have 1st Communion polluted by the presence of the traitor)
- Before Upper Room Discourse

“**immediately**” – right after Jesus’ words to His inner circle

We know from John 18 and other gospels, that Judas arrived with a Roman Cohort of 600 soldiers. We also know that it was still dark as they arrived with lanterns and torches. Many of those who were there did not know Jesus by sight so a secret signal was necessary

Judas gives a prearranged sign – he kisses Jesus

“**kiss**” – *fileo* – Kissing is a mark of love, affection, tenderness, and intimacy

- kissing is one of the most intimate demonstrative signs of affection in the human experience
→ makes his deed that much more evil
- a kiss on the hand was the common greeting given a rabbi by a student (disciple)

Judas prostitutes the fondest of all endearing signs—a *kiss*

- the symbol of loyalty to the King
- the gesture reserved for the best symbol of affection
- he makes an execution weapon for the destruction of Jesus
- this kiss is forever a badge of his treachery
- God allows it to bring out the poison of betrayal

Note this subtle detail: Do we really need a reminder that Judas is “**one of the twelve**”?

- Seemingly a superfluous detail
- It is written in verses **10, 20 and 43**
- No other apostle is referred to as “**one of the twelve.**”

All the gospel writers are restrained in their description of Judas – vis-à-vis extra-biblical writers:

The Acts of Pilate, Judas went home after the betrayal and found his wife roasting a chicken. When he told her he was planning to kill himself because he was afraid Jesus would rise from the dead and take vengeance on him, she replied that Jesus would no more rise from the dead than the chicken she was cooking would jump out of the fire and crow-at which point the chicken supposedly did just that.

Dante – places Judas in the ninth circle of Hell, where the jaws of Satan eternally chew him up. He placed Judas head-first inside Satan's mouth, with his back being shredded by the devil's claws.

Restraint of Scripture – the simple words, “**one of the twelve**” accents, highlights with piercing power

- chilling beauty in its simplicity
- the subtle reminder brings out intense power of betrayal!
- far worse than anything made up

Take note: This is a reminder of the intimacy of the betrayal. This deepens the horror of the betrayal, the terrible character of Judas. God brings it out like a sharp dagger that pierces the heart. This is a reminder that a great price was paid.

The more intimate the traitor, the deeper the stab!

Application: The tragic testimony of Judas reminds us that it is possible to be near Christ, to associate with Him closely, and still be totally hardened in sin. Many can be fooled but Christ knows our hearts.

Charles Spurgeon – “Understand, my brethren ... that no position of honor or usefulness in the Church will necessarily prove our being true to our Lord and Master. Doubtless there are bishops in hell, and crowds of those who once occupied the pulpit are now condemned for ever to bewail their hypocrisy ... Perhaps it is the most dangerous of all positions for a man to become well known and much respected by the religious world, and yet to be rotten at the core.”

There are 3 Marks of a False Follower: Self-Interest, Hypocrisy, Deceit

A. Self-Interest

A false Christian is marked by **self-interest**, which for Judas is exhibited most obviously in his greed. He is a thief (**John 12:6**). He craves glory and power. He wants to use Jesus for his own sinful ends. When he realizes that Jesus will not be used, he turns on Him.

Mark 14:45 – “And after coming, he immediately went to Him, saying, "Rabbi!" and kissed Him.”

B. Hypocrisy

C. Deceit

A false disciple is also marked by **deceit** and **hypocrisy**. He masquerades in devotion to Christ, His Word, and His church. He worships Christ on the outside but hates Him on the inside.

Judas calls Jesus “**Rabbi**” – Teacher, Master – literally meaning *my great one*

- Ultimate hypocrisy
- Ultimate Sin – with a Kiss, with the title

Mark 14:46 – “And they laid hands on Him and seized Him.”

Mixed Multitude – Jews and Gentiles alike

Note in **verse 43**:

“**swords**” – “small” swords, the regular hand weapons of the Roman soldiers.

“**clubs**” – regular weapons of the temple police

“**the chief priests and the scribes and the elders**” – the Sanhedrin – acting together, also with “the Pharisees” (**John 18:3**)

John 18:3 – “Judas then, having received the Roman cohort, and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.”

- The Sanhedrin called the Romans to help in the arrest. (Roman cohort-600 soldiers).

Note the tragic irony: They come to subdue the Prince of Peace with clubs and swords.

Application: Blinding power of Sin

II. Peter: Marks of a Defective Disciple **Mark 14:47**

Point – Peter was loyal, but badly mistaken. He was brash and impulsive.

- This was a spiritual war; not physical war!
- Before God's plan can be fully realized, Jesus must suffer. Peter had heard this over and over but he still didn't get it!
- He turns to his emotions

Just as there are common marks of false disciples, there are common characteristics of defective disciples: they are **unprepared** and **impulsive**.

They are **unprepared**. All of them, including the three Jesus chose to accompany Him into the garden, fell asleep at this time of Jesus' great struggle. Because they confuse good intentions with spiritual strength, they are powerless when testing comes.

Mark 14:47 – “**But a certain one of those who stood by drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear.**”

John 18:10 – “**Simon Peter therefore having a sword, drew it, and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus.**”

- Malchus was a slave of the high priest Caiaphas.
- Caiaphas probably sent Malchus along to keep an eye on Judas and report back the progress
- He was the first man in the reach of Peter's sword.
- Peter was not attempting to cut off his ear
- He was attempting to cut off his head!
- Malchus ducked and the sword clipped his ear.

Luke 22:51 – “**Jesus answered and said, "Stop! No more of this." And He touched his ear and healed him.**”

Despite His anxiety as evidence with the blood-soaked sweat, Jesus continues in His ministry, healing Malchus, teaching His disciples. That is the God we worship!

Jesus' Rebuke:

Matthew 26:52

“Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword.”

To meet violence with violence is not Jesus' way.

- good intention, but misdirected
- Jesus does not teach against self-defense or the defense of loved ones
- He does not teach against fighting in the armed forces
- this is pro capital punishment, not anti war

Genesis 9:6 – “**Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.**”

He is referring to violently taking justice into one's own hands. Under no circumstances does a Christian ever have the right to personal vengeance, even to defend Christ's name or Word.

The church never advances by the sword. The kingdom of God does not advance with fleshly weapons or by fleshly strategy. The battleground is spiritual.

It is an absolute spiritual law that a believer who neglects the study of God's Word and neglects fellowship with Him in prayer will be unprepared. (cf. **Matt. 26:41**). When testing comes he will be **weak, afraid, unfaithful, and ineffective**.

Further Application: A second mark of a defective disciple is **impulsiveness**. The eleven disciples, and Peter in particular, react on the basis of emotion rather than revelation. Instead of acting on the basis of God's Word, they react on the basis of their emotions and in the weakness of their own resources.

The believer who fails to saturate himself in God's Word becomes a captive of circumstances. His thinking is based on the emotions of the moment, and his actions are based on the impulses of the moment.

In summary, Peter prayed too little, slept too much, acted too fast, and boasted too loudly

But you know what??? Peter is Loyal.

- I will take a loyal friend who is ready to act any day of the week over →
- contrast that with Judas, the wretched traitor

III. Jesus: The Sovereign Savior Mark 14:48-49

Point – Sovereign Savior, Willing Lamb

Mark 14:48-49

“And Jesus answered and said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me, as against a robber? ⁴⁹"Every day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me; but *this has happened that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.*"”

Jesus is the only calm person in the garden. Even though He is now bound (**John 18:12**), He addresses the multitude. He is as bold as a lion.

“as against a robber” - this is at front of the sentence for emphasis

Every day this Passover week, Jesus has been teaching openly in the temple, the most public place in Jerusalem. However:

- They arrest Him at night
- They are secretive
- They are cowards

The wicked seek protection in crowds and in darkness. They are afraid of exposure and opposition.

Luke 22:53 – **“this hour and the power of darkness are yours.”**

Consider this illustration:

Secret police in any part of the world at any time – for example the KGB – made their arrests at night. The victims are confused and offer less resistance and the neighbors are less likely to protest.

Proverbs 28:1 – **“The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But the righteous are bold as a lion.”**

cf. Mark 14:35!

There is optical darkness (opposite of light) and also darkness of the world. Satan has power for a short time but Scripture will be fulfilled and God will be victorious.

“but *this has happened* that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.”

He must be betrayed for the Scriptures to be fulfilled!

- He could not be defeated while fighting (like Mormon leader Joseph Smith)
- He could not be caught while fleeing
- He could not offer Himself to be arrested as that would make Him a party to their crime
- He could not be surprised as that would lessen the bitterness in the cup of the fierce wrath of God

He **MUST** be betrayed.

Application: This is a reflection of the love of Christ! He allows himself to be arrested.

Before they laid hands on Him and seized Him ...

Turn to: John 18:4-6

Jesus demonstrates His sovereign power over His captors before allowing Himself to be captured

They instantly and involuntarily fall to the ground, caused by a direct, miraculous burst of the power of God. The multitude is able to rise only when God’s restraining hand is lifted.

John 18:7-9

John 10:11 – “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He allows Himself to be betrayed. He will allow Himself to be beaten and killed...for His sheep. Even for His weak, scattered sheep. His sheep that give into their own flesh..defectors.

Mark 14:50 – “And they all left Him and fled.”

Transition:

- So that all is fulfilled from the Old Testament
- So that all is fulfilled from **Mark 14:27** (The Scattered Sheep)
 - Not just OT, but hours old Word of God – just spoken - as well!
- This is the exact fulfillment of vv. **18-20**

14:51-52 –

“And a certain young man was following Him, wearing *nothing but* a linen sheet over *his* naked body; and they seized him. ⁵²But he left the linen sheet behind, and escaped naked.”

Point – Drives home The Forsakenness of Christ

- This young man is possibly John Mark.
- Only mentioned in Mark
- Failure to mention name of “young man”

- He could be referring to himself as a young man as Matthew calls himself “disciple” in his gospels and John calls himself “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (**John 21:20**)
- Purpose of details if not Mark? (**do not spiritualize**)
- **Acts 12:12** – Christians met for worship and prayer in the House of John Mark’s mother in Jerusalem

There is no need or reason to allegorize or spiritualize this account. Because of the simplicity and brevity of the account, many are tempted to wave the allegorical magic wand to come up with meaning.

→ As with the rest of Scripture, take at face value.

“**linen sheet**” – used for clothing or burial – expensive – member of a well-to-do family

- He is awakened out of bed and leaves without taking time to dress
- Somehow they know he is a follower of Jesus because they try to arrest him

Followers of Jesus stand out!

All fled – leaving Jesus alone in custody

What is the point? Jesus is very alone. **Total Forsakenness!**

CONCLUSION

Christ leads me through no darker rooms than He went through before - Richard Baxter

Isaiah 53:2-3

Jesus didn’t have a halo or some stately form or appearance about Him

He was despised and forsaken by men

This is at the heart of what we are reading in the gospel of Mark

Isaiah 53: 5-12

This is part of the wonder of His gift of salvation.

Because of His perfect sacrifice, we can now

- Esteem Him
- Love Him
- Serve Him
- Worship Him
- Follow Him
- Hear with our hearts
- Love one another more than ourselves
- Forgive one another
- Be reconciled and restored

because Jesus Christ walked the Via Dolorosa.

This is all part of the gospel message we remember and celebrate with one another.