

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 9TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

### BETRAYED WITH A KISS (MARK 14:43-52) BETRAYED WITH A KISS

As Jesus was speaking to the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, a mob consisting of the chief priests, scribes, elders, and soldiers made their way to Jesus, prepared for a fight.

- Judas, one of the 12, had arranged a signal to identify Jesus to the mob. The signal chosen was a customary way for disciples to greet their rabbi—a kiss.

#### “WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?” (MARK 8:29)

Again, we see how Judas's view of Jesus differed from that of the other disciples. He called him *Rabbi*, meaning teacher, instead of *Lord* (Mark 14:45; Matthew 26:25).

- How we view Jesus has implications for how we live and where we will spend eternity. **Jesus is not merely a teacher; He is Lord of all.**

#### “BUT THE SCRIPTURES MUST BE FULFILLED.”

With a word, Jesus could have stopped the mob that came to arrest Him, but He didn't. Jesus pointed out that weapons weren't needed, and they had many opportunities to arrest Him.

- Jesus' words show that **He was in control and the mob's actions**, including Judas's, **were part of a plan to fulfill a higher purpose** (Isaiah 53:12; Zechariah 13:7).

### GOD KNOWS US AND OUR SINFUL NATURE

The very evening all the disciples told Jesus they would never deny Him and Peter insisted he would remain faithful even unto death, they all scattered and deserted Him, just as He said they would (Mark 14:27).

- We are flippant and unfaithful. God knows this about us, which is why **He wants to remove our hearts of stone and give us new ones.**

### PETER'S IMPULSIVENESS AND SHAME

Peter was the one who wielded the sword and cut off the ear of the high priest's servant (John 18:3). Many commentators believe Peter is also the one who ran away naked.

- Jesus alone can undo the damage and hurt we cause. We must be willing to **humble ourselves, admit our mistakes, repent**, and **He will remove our guilt and shame.**

### FACING THE SANHEDRIN (MARK 14:53-65)

#### JESUS IS ON TRIAL

There was an **incredibly illegal and rigged trial that took place for Jesus' life.**

- Mark only accounts for parts of the trial, while the other Gospel accounts show that Jesus' trial consisted of **three parts before the Jewish authorities** and **three parts before the Roman authorities** prior to being sent to the cross.

#### “MANY WERE GIVING FALSE TESTIMONY”

Verse 55 says that **“the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they could not find any.”**

- Even in the middle of the night, they were able to find many people who were willing to give false witness against Jesus, but **they couldn't find two testimonies to line up as the law required.**

### MISUNDERSTOOD AND MISREPRESENTED

The religious leaders thought they had something when at least two people said they heard Jesus say **he would destroy the manmade temple and build another, not made by man, in three days.**

- They attempted to twist Jesus' words **about His death and resurrection** to misrepresent His intentions, but they couldn't even agree on this.

#### “DON'T YOU HAVE AN ANSWER...?”

After failed attempts to gain false witnesses, the high priest chose to interrogate Jesus himself. **The first line of questioning centered around Jesus not responding to the false accusations.**

- Jesus could have called witnesses to defend Him and His character, but instead **He kept silent** (Isaiah 53:7).

#### “I AM WHO I AM” (EXODUS 3:14)

Then the high priest literally asked Jesus, **“Are you the Messiah, the Son of God?”** and Jesus replied without hesitation, **“I am.”**

- Jesus elaborated by blending two OT verses (Psalm 110:1; Daniel 7:13) to show He had control and would one day return to establish His Kingdom. With these words, Jesus showed them they were the ones on trial, and not Him.

#### “THEY ALL CONDEMNED HIM...”

The words of Jesus pierced their hearts, but instead of being sorrowful they became angry. **Spitting and hitting were ways to show rejection and anger.** The high priest **tore his robes as a sign of blasphemy** while some in court challenged Him to name who was beating Him while blindfolded.

- **What is our response to Jesus' words that pierce our hearts?**

### PETER'S DENIAL (MARK 14:66-72)

#### FIRST DENIAL

While Jesus was on trial, the events surrounding Peter's denial were taking place. Peter loved Jesus and was awaiting the outcome of Jesus' trial, but **his love for Jesus did not trump his fear of being associated with Him.**

- One of the high priest's servant girls recognized Peter, but he denied knowing Jesus and what she was talking about.

### SECOND AND THIRD DENIAL

Still not convinced, the girl sees Peter later in a crowd and starts to tell everyone standing nearby that Peter was one of Jesus' followers.

- A second time, Peter denies any association with Jesus as the crowds start to question him since He is from Galilee. Then Peter **“started to curse and swear, ‘I don't know this man you're talking about.’”**

#### “THEN HE STARTED TO CURSE AND SWEAR...”

Some commentators believe **“curse and swear”** means Peter spoke vulgarities to distance himself from Jesus, when most likely Peter was in essence saying, **“I swear I do not know this man, and may God curse me if I'm lying.”**

- Whatever words came from Peter's mouth, they would have been **shocking to come from someone claiming to follow Christ.**

### FROM BROKEN TO RESTORED

The rooster crowed a second time, Jesus looked at Peter (Luke 22:61), and Peter remembered His words. The grief and shame of denying Jesus immediately broke Peter down as he wept.

- The good news is **God always opens the door to repentance, forgiveness, and restoration** (John 21:1-19).

### LET US LEARN FROM PETER'S FAILURES

**Peter followed Jesus at a distance** (v. 54). We will be unable to stand for Jesus at a critical time if we are distancing ourselves from Him.

- Peter **sat by the fire, warming himself with the servants who beat Jesus** (v. 54), **hoping to blend into the crowd.** We are not to find fellowship and comfort among the ungodly while seeking not to stand out (1 Peter 2:9).

### WHAT IS OUR VIEW OF JESUS?

- Is Jesus a **friend, teacher, or Lord?**
- When we view Jesus as a friend alone, we are merely acquaintances with Him and will lack a meaningful relationship.
- If Jesus is a teacher alone, then He is just the provider of a list of do's and don'ts.
- If we view Jesus as Lord, **it will be evident in how we live and not just what we say.**

### FACING SCRUTINY

- Will we remain Christlike when we face scrutiny?
- Are we preparing before it happens?
- We are not to spend time worrying about facing scrutiny, but we should be spending time preparing through reading the Word and listening to the Holy Spirit so that we are ready (Mark 13:11).

### ARE WE DENYING CHRIST?

- Any time we buckle to peer pressure and compromise our beliefs in public or in private we are denying Christ.
- It is easier to blend in and follow societal norms than it is to hold to our convictions, especially when it seems like we are alone.
- **Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him (Matthew 16:24-26).**
- Romans 12:2

### WHAT ARE WE CONFORMED TO?

- Through reading the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit, our minds can be renewed, focusing on what is good and pure (Philippians 4:8).
- It is by **reading the Word, praying, listening, and obeying** that we are conformed to the image of Christ and not to the ways of this world.