

Message #55

Mark 14:43-52

There have been some really bad things that have happened to innocent people in the history of this country:

- 1) December 7, 1941, many innocent Americans were killed at Pearl Harbor.
- 2) January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court legalized abortion in Roe-versus-Wade and, as a result, millions of innocent babies have been executed.
- 3) April 20, 1999, 12 innocent students and one teacher were massacred at Columbine High School, near where Dave and Candee live. In fact, the church in Roxborough is not far from Columbine.
- 4) September 11, 2001, Islamic terrorists attacked innocent people in United States of America.
- 5) June 12, 2016, an Islamic terrorist killed 49 innocent people in Orlando.

These are just a few of the bad days in history when innocent people were killed.

But there was one night about 2,000 years ago that was the worst night of all. It was the night the most innocent Person to ever walk on this earth was attacked. It all started the night Jesus Christ was betrayed.

I don't know whether or not you have ever been betrayed by someone, but if you have you know it hurts. Betrayal can come in many ways. Some anonymous person can betray you. Some person who knows you can try to undermine you and betray you. But the kind of betrayal that will hurt the most will be a betrayal of someone you thought was your friend.

We may remember in **verse 42** that Jesus said to His disciples that it was time to go because it was time for Him to be betrayed. Now this betrayal did not take Jesus by surprise. We may remember that earlier Judas had left the disciples to make a deal with the chief priests to betray Christ (14:10-11). When Jesus was eating His last Supper, He specifically said that one from the table would betray Him (14:18-21).

Furthermore, all throughout His last year of ministry, He kept telling these disciples that He would go to Jerusalem and would be rejected and then handed over to the religious leaders (8:31; 10:33-34). So this betrayal is not something that catches Jesus Christ off guard. What we learn from this text is this:

EVEN THE BETRAYAL OF JESUS CHRIST BY JUDAS AND THE ABANDONMENT BY HIS DISCIPLES WAS ALL PART OF THE SOVEREIGN PLAN AND PROGRAM OF GOD THAT HAD BEEN SCRIPTED BY HIM SO HE COULD SAVE SINNERS.

Now Mark is the one recording this and he is getting this data from Peter. So what we have here is an eyewitness account of exactly what happened. There are seven betrayal events that occur here:

BETRAYAL EVENT #1 – Judas arrives with the crowd from the leaders. **14:43-44**

At the very moment that Jesus told His disciples it was time to go, Judas arrived. Judas had slipped out during the meal and was using his time to gather up the enemies of Jesus Christ in order to take them to Him so they could kill Him.

Mark is very careful to point out that this Judas was “one of the twelve.” The point of Mark using this phrase is to point out that Judas had been one of the twelve who had been chosen by Jesus Christ. Judas never loved Jesus Christ. In fact, John brings out he was in it for the money. He was the treasurer of the group and he used to skim money (John 12:6).

Now Judas arrived accompanied by a crowd of military thugs. It was night time so they would have been coming up the mountain with torches and lanterns. You could have seen them coming up the mountain from quite a distance.

These men were a contingency of soldiers and temple police who worked for and with the religious leaders. In fact, three main groups of them are named—chief priests, scribes and elders. So the religious leaders are all against Jesus Christ and they sent a large number of soldiers, who represent them, to go up that mountain and arrest Jesus Christ.

Now it is obvious from **verse 43** that these men are heavily armed. They are armed with swords and clubs, which were the weapons of their day. Typically clubs were similar to a police baton and swords were part of the equipment carried by the soldiers.

Before they arrived, Judas had figured out a way to signal to them who Jesus was. Jesus did not have a real distinguished look about Him and also because it was dark, Judas would need to let this vigilante group know precisely who Jesus was.

The signal they devised was that Judas would walk up to Jesus and give Him a greeting kiss on the cheek. When he did that, they could seize Him and lead Him away. This was the plan and it shows you how depraved a person controlled by Satan can be. This is the work of Satan because Satan entered Judas to do this work (John 13:26-27).

What we get to actually see here is the real work of a satanically possessed person. What exactly is this work? What exactly is the most diabolical form of satanic betrayal? It is the work of a person who pretends to love Jesus and pretends to really care about Him when in all reality that person is selling Him out for money or something else.

BETRAYAL EVENT #2 – Judas gives the kiss of betrayal sign to the leaders. **14:45**

When Judas saw Jesus, he went to Him to put on his big betrayal show. He called Him Rabbi and then he kissed Him. What an evil thing to do.

The Greek word used for kiss is an intensive form of the word. What that means is that he apparently was hugging him and kissing him on the cheek in a prolonged way. We could call this his “god-killer kiss.” This was a typical way a disciple showed admiration for his teacher. So this was not uncommon.

In Psalm 55:12-14, we learn what was going on in the mind of Jesus when this was happening: “For it is not an enemy who reproaches me, then I could bear it; nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me, then I could hide myself from him. But it is you, a man my equal, My companion and my familiar friend. We who had sweet fellowship together walked in the house of God in the throng.”

Proverbs 27:6 says, “Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.” Jesus was betrayed by a kiss from a friend.

BETRAYAL EVENT #3 – Jesus is arrested by the representatives of the leaders. **14:46**

Verse 46 means when they grabbed Christ they really manhandled Him. The words “laid hands on Him” and “seized Him” indicates they grabbed Him with force in a dominating display of strength and might and they were going to haul Him back down the mountain. As soon as Judas betrayed Christ, the soldiers arrested Him.

Think of this. This is the God-Savior-Messiah-King of kings and He is allowing these evil, sinful arrogant men to put their dirty, filthy hands on Him to arrest Him. Why? Why did He let this happen? It certainly is not due to the fact that He cannot get away. He has the power to drop everyone in this crowd dead if He wants. Why? He came to die so that we might live.

BETRAYAL EVENT #4 – Jesus’ disciple cuts off an ear of one of them. **14:47**

All four of the Gospels contain this event. Mark says, “one of those who stood by drew his sword.” He obviously swung his sword and he cut off a man’s ear. Now some have said he sliced the ear and the ear was just dangling off the side of the guy’s head, but the word used here indicates a complete separation (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 70).

Mark does not tell us who it was who cut off the man’s ear. John tells us it was Peter (John 18:10) and he also informs us that the man’s name whose ear he cut off was a man named “Malchus” (John 18:10). Obviously John knew this man by name. John and Luke also inform us that he cut off his right ear. As Dr. McGee said, Peter was a great fisherman but a lousy swordsman.

Now Peter is relaying much of this story to Mark, although Mark may in fact be following in the shadows. We assume that this part of the story is coming directly from Peter and he does not want to look like a hero in any way. In fact, what happens next is anything but heroic. Now the truth is this action had the potential of destroying the whole program of God. What Peter is actually doing here is contrary to the whole program of God, which Jesus had specifically laid out for them. This is a serious moment. Peter is ready to go to war to stop Christ from going to the cross. Things could have gotten out of hand real fast, had Christ let them.

We must be careful to make sure that we are standing for the right things when we take a stand. It is possible to take a stand for Christ and even defend Christ and be out of step with the will of God and the program of God.

Now Luke, who was a medical doctor, says that Jesus “touched his ear and healed him” (Luke 22:51). The word “touch” would indicate that Jesus found it and took it in His hand and healed the man’s ear. He put it back on his head without any complication.

The word heal that Luke uses is the same word Peter uses in I Peter 2:24 to say, “by His wounds or stripes you were healed.” Jesus is in the business of healing us and forgiving us even when we have done something foolish. What amazing grace here.

John Calvin said I wonder how many times we have actually thwarted the will of God because of our own fleshly responses. We must all learn to carefully think through the will of God before we speak or act.

BETRAYAL EVENT #5 – Jesus instructs them that these events fulfill Scripture. **14:48-49**

Jesus decides to challenge the thinking of all involved in this. He decides to do some teaching. They were coming out to arrest Him as if He were some criminal and He wants to show the lunacy of that. They were approaching Him as if He were some fugitive on the run.

Now Jesus informs the group that they really didn’t need to have the swords and clubs. He asks them have you come armed to arrest Me like you would some robber? Then He says in **verse 49**, I was with you in the Temple every day teaching, why didn’t you seize Me there? The reason is the leaders feared the people. They didn’t dare do that.

Jesus informs them in verse 49 that the reason this was taking place was to fulfill the Scriptures. This is the only reason they are putting their evil, sinful hands on Him. God was letting them take His Son because this was the plan of God to save sinners.

BETRAYAL EVENT #6 – Jesus disciples all left Him and fled. **14:50**

Zechariah 13:7 says, “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.” That is exactly what happened. Jesus had already told them that all of them would run away from Him (14:27). Remember they said, “no we won’t ever do that” (14:31). That is exactly what happened.

All of His disciples abandoned Him and left Him to face everything alone. This is the last glimpse we get of all the disciples until the resurrection announcement. So the last glimpse we get of those who were Christ's closest disciples is that they are abandoning Him and running away.

I wonder how many times we have hurt Christ because we ran away from doing what was right?

BETRAYAL EVENT #7 – Jesus' follower is seized but gets away. **14:51-52**

There was a follower of Jesus Christ who did not immediately flee and run away. He was not one of the twelve. We don't know who he was.

Here is undoubtedly one of the oddest things that is recorded of all the Gospel accounts of what happened that night. What we may grammatically observe from the Greek text is that Mark does not stress the identity of the young man. He doesn't specifically identify him and by not using an article before the "young man" he does not specify that we should identify him. He simply tells the story.

There have been many guesses as to whom this was. 1) Some say it is Mark, the author of this Gospel because Mark's mother, Mary, had a home large enough in Jerusalem for the church to meet, which would indicate she was wealthy (Acts 12:12). Most scholars believe it was John/Mark the one writing the Gospel although Eusebius claims that Papias, the church father of A.D. 130, taught that Mark never heard the Lord actually teach nor did he follow Him. 2) Some have said it was the owner of the Garden of Gethsemane; 3) Some have said it was Lazarus; 4) Some have said it was the rich young ruler of Mark 10; 5) Some have said it was Jesus' brother and 6) Some have even suggested that this was Paul. The truth is the text does not say.

What happened was a young man was following Christ and His disciples and he was wearing nothing but a linen robe, which probably means he came from some wealthy family. He did not initially run away with the disciples but apparently some soldier seized him and grabbed hold of his linen robe and the man pulled away and ran away naked. He is running down the mountain totally naked in order to escape.

Now if all the disciples and Peter had run away, then we must ask who saw this. Who was there to see it? It is possible that the young man went flying by the other disciples naked. There is no glamour in this night. This is the night the innocent Son of God was betrayed. There is no loyalty here. By the way, this certainly puts a crimp in the Lordship salvation message. They say in order to be saved you must give up everything and follow Christ. These guys were saved and they all ran away from Christ. All left Christ and no one stayed with Him. Here is Jesus Christ willing to lay down His own life and no one is willing to stand by Him as He does.

Now why would Jesus let these things happen to Him? **Verse 49** says, "to fulfill Scriptures." For sinners to be saved from sins the Scripture says one must have His hands and feet pierced and be wounded for our transgressions. He was led like a Lamb to slaughter and He willingly let this happen to save us.