

## **The Darkness Deepens – Jesus Foretells the Disciples’ Failure (Mark 14:26-31)**

- Both encouraging & discouraging when young Christians declare their devotion.
- It is good that they are zealous and want to serve the Lord unflinchingly
- But it is discouraging when they think that they can do it in their own strength
- Naïve presumption: one can follow Christ by a simple assertion of one’s will
- This reveals a lack of real understanding of one’s own heart and weakness
- The arena of battle before Christ was the epitome of darkness and death
- The disciples had not a clue what awaited them, only God would deliver them

### **I. A Hymn of Praise in the Darkest Night (v 26)**

- “They sang a hymn before they went out” The Hallel- Psalms were 115 – 118
- Lord’s Supper was the natural outgrowth of the Passover – hymns of praise sung
- Devout Jews spent hours after Passover talking of past and future redemption
- These psalms were songs of praise suited for Passover & fitting for what lay ahead
- Jesus would take these words for his own prayer of thanksgiving & praise (Ps 116)
- He would have called on the Gentiles to join in the praise of God (Ps 117:1-2)
- He most likely concluded with a song of jubilation- reflecting steadfast confidence
- Psalm 118: 17 spoke of his triumph and when he rose it would be on his lips

### **II. A Prophecy of Darkness Yielding to the Light (v .27, 28)**

- Jesus now warns them that they will “all fall away” “be offended by Him”
- They will “fall away or be offended because of me” says Jesus (Rom 9:33)
- Even they out of fear & terror would temporarily lose confidence & hope in Him
- Jesus tells them it is prophesied so, i.e. it is as certain as Scripture (Zech 13:7)
- “God commands the man who stands beside him to be struck to scatter the sheep”
- This integral part of the refining process results in a new people of God (Zch 13:1)
- This passage speaks of necessity which leads to redemption for the people of God
- Christ also counterbalances this dark prophecy with the light of His resurrection

### **III. Ignorance of the Darkness Brings Humility (29-31)**

- Peter’s reaction proves Jesus’ very point, “you will all be offended by me”
- Peter sins by treating Jesus’ words as untrue while acting superior to the others
- Jesus answers: Truly (emphatically) I tell you this very night before the rooster crows twice, you would have denied me three times