

**Mark Study**  
**Week Twenty-One**  
**Mark 14:35-65**

**Day One**

35 Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. 36 "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." 37 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? 38 Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

v. 35 – Jesus knew what was about to happen. He had predicted it to His disciples on many occasions and now the hour was at hand. Yet He agonized over the coming events, and even asked the Father if there was any way that it could be avoided.

Jesus was fully God and fully man. He embraced the will of His Father yet His humanity caused Him to struggle with the implications. Wow! Since Jesus was sinless, this struggle wasn't a manifestation of sin. It was a sincere expression of something God put into every human being – the desire to live and stay alive!

**Are you struggling with some aspect of God's will for your life? Are you burdened by it?** Then be of good cheer! Jesus experienced the same thing, and He was the Son of God! Don't be discouraged. Just do what Jesus did: Pray!

v. 36 – Jesus referred to His Father with the term *Abba*. This is an intimate name that no Jew would dare use, for it was too familiar. I have heard it said that *Abba* is the equivalent of "Daddy."

Jesus acknowledged that the Father was sovereign over all and that nothing was beyond the scope of His rule and will. Having said that, Jesus asked if there was any way He could be spared the cup of suffering He was about to drink. Yet He quickly transitioned to a different prayer that indicated He was more interested in the will of the Father than His own comfort and life.

I love Jesus because He is worthy of love. He was and is the greatest human being who has ever lived. He set an example for me and then gave His life so I could live the life God intended. What's more, He empowers me to live that divine life. There is no God like our God!

v. 37 – What a contrast the disciples provided to Jesus! What a contrast I provide, for I am no different than they were. I sleep while God works. I am spiritually dull while God is alive and active.

v. 38 – Jesus gave a good summary of our condition. Our spirits are willing but our body is oh so weak. **Have you ever been surprised by your inability to keep a promise you made to God, others or yourself? Why is this so?** Because your spirit led the way and was willing, but the flesh following was weak. Don't be too hard on yourself, however, and don't give up making commitments. Just continue to surrender to the Spirit so you can receive help to keep them.

### Day Two

39 Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. 40 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. 41 Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

v. 39 – Jesus asked if anyone could join Him in prayer during His time of agony. He also wanted the disciples to pray that they would not give in to temptation – **that would be a good thing to pray, don't you think?** I would think that this is a similar prayer to one of the lines in the Lord's Prayer: "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."

v. 40 – Jesus returned to the place where He had left the disciples and they were asleep again. They had drunk some wine during the Passover meal and the hour was late. Plus, they had little understanding of what was about to take place because they were spiritually dull and did not comprehend what Jesus had been telling them for some time.

You may tend to be hard on the disciples for their lack of vigilance, but they are just examples, I think, of our need to grow spiritually after we encounter the Lord. Someone once said you don't know how far man fell in the Garden until he starts his journey back to God. That is so true. These men who slept in this instance, however, would eventually become spiritual giants. At that point, they were spiritual midgets. That should give you and me hope that we too can grow into spiritual oaks.

v. 41 – So Jesus left them one more time and then returned for the third time, only to find them still asleep and groggy. The time for watching and praying was over, however, and events would unfold quickly from that point on. Jesus

proclaimed that He would be betrayed into the hands of sinners. He pointed out the irony that He, the sinless One, would be judged and condemned by sinners.

That is still the case. Sinners still judge God and often find Him not meeting their sinful expectations. Yet God does not destroy them on the spot, for He hopes for their repentance. **Aren't you glad that God is gracious?** He doesn't ever owe us a second chance, but gives many chances to sinners with one thought in mind:

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

**Have you mistaken God's patience for acceptance, even approval of your behavior or attitudes?** If so, you may want to reconsider:

These things you have done and I kept silent; you thought I was altogether like you (Psalm 50:21).

v. 42 – Jesus awakened His disciples so that they would see what was about to take place. Judas had led the soldiers and leaders to Jesus. Now the events that Jesus had predicted would unfold quickly, just as He had predicted.

### Day Three

43 Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders. 44 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." 45 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. 46 The men seized Jesus and arrested him.

v. 43 – Jesus was awake so He knew what was happening. **Are you aware of what is going on around you?** I am personally working on being alert so I can learn from the things around me. Yet your brain can only assimilate a fraction of the sensory input that surrounds us. **Do you miss things that happen around you? Does someone ask you about something for which you were present but you have no idea about what they are talking?** If so, then you like me may need to make more of an effort to be aware.

The men came to apprehend the Prince of Peace with clubs and swords. That is the power that man knows – his weapons. There is a phrase, "might makes right." The leaders of Israel felt that they had power and authority on their side, and chose to use them against Jesus. Jesus submitted to their schemes, yet He

was the all-powerful One. **What does that tell you about the Father, Jesus and Jesus' mission?** They came in peace!

Do you see what Jesus meant when He said:

Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? (Matthew 26:53-54).

v. 44 – **Why did Judas need a signal for the mob to seize Jesus?** My sense has always been because there was nothing to set Jesus apart from the others. He wore no special clothing or sign that He was the leader. In fact, others like Peter probably looked more the part. Judas probably said to the mob, “You had better let me show you which one is Jesus. Otherwise, you’ll probably arrest two or three others who appear to be in charge.”

I have repeatedly made the point that Jesus is our model for ministry and leadership. When I see leaders doing what they can to set themselves apart from the rest with nice clothes, reserved parking spaces and special seating, I have to chuckle. **Is this what Jesus did? Is this what He would do if He were here today? I don't think so. If He wouldn't do it, why would any of His followers?**

**If you are a leader, do you set yourself apart from others so that you can be known as the leader? Why do you do this? Is it proper? As a result of reading this, what changes will you make?**

v. 45 – Judas referred to Jesus as rabbi, which means teacher, and of course Jesus was. Judas said all the right things, up to this point in his walk with the Lord did all the right things, but eventually betrayed Jesus. Not everyone who appears to have a right heart actually does.

v. 46 – Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss and immediately the armed guards seized Jesus. The event for which Jesus had been preparing His disciples had begun. Jesus was under arrest.

In many ways, what we see here is the keepers of the Jewish law ordering Jesus, the Son of God, to be arrested! The Law arrested the Lawgiver! How ironic! How bizarre! So zealous were the Jews for God that they had God arrested when He seemed to violate His law. **Does this make sense?** Absolutely not, unless you see that the Law had to slay the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world, something that the Law was powerless to do.

#### Day Four

47 Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. 48 "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? 49 Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." 50 Then everyone deserted him and fled.

v. 47 – Mark does not tell us that Peter was the one who drew a sword. Mark was Peter's assistant, so I am sure he was aware of this fact. **Why wasn't he more specific?** Mark also doesn't tell us that Jesus healed the servant's ear that had been cut off.

You can be sure that Peter wasn't aiming for the man's ear; he was trying to cut off his head! Poor Peter was about to enter into the trial of his life and his failures would be recorded for the world to read from that point. I am glad my failures aren't that public, for I would fare no better than Peter did if a historical record were kept.

v. 48 – The guards who came to capture Jesus came out fully armed. Jesus raised the point that he was not leading a rebellion, so that this was an exaggerated response to His presence. An armed guard came to apprehend the unarmed Prince of Peace!

v. 49 – Jesus pointed out that He had been with them in the Temple courts and they had not arrested Him. He was stating the obvious, **but why?** I would think that it was for the benefit of His disciples, so they would understand, and for the benefit of those who arrested Him. The latter could never say that they had not heard the truth. Jesus confronted them with the reality of what they were doing.

Then Jesus gave the main reason why all this had to take place: It was to fulfill the Scriptures! This was God's will! Jesus was reminding everyone that God was in control of this situation. While the priests, guards and Judas were acting of their own free will, they were cooperating fully and completely with the purpose of God.

**Is there something going on in your life right now that you can't understand? Do circumstances seem to make no sense? Is your life spinning out of control?** If you are in Christ, you can relax. God is in control! His perfect will and plan are being carried out.

v. 50 – Everyone deserted Jesus and fled, after they had all pledged their loyalty to the death! **Has someone betrayed you?** Jesus knows how you feel! That may not lessen your pain, but at least you know that He understands. You also may wonder how these men could all fulfill Scripture without God violating their free will.

Do you make choices every day, of what to eat, what to wear, how to get to work, what to do at work? Yes, you do. While you are doing those things, is God in control of everything? Yes, He is. So you can make many freewill choices yet that doesn't diminish God's sovereign will and purpose being done. I cannot explain how that happens, but the example gives you a sense that it can and does happen.

### Day Five

51 A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, 52 he fled naked, leaving his garment behind. 53 They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law came together. 54 Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

vs. 51&52 – It seems like one young man did not flee with the others, but followed Jesus when they first took Him away. But the guards grabbed hold of him and he ran away, leaving the guards clutching only the man's outer garment. He had nothing on underneath, so he ran away naked.

Many believe that this young man was our writer, Mark. Since everyone else had fled, how else would Mark know about this situation? These followers of Jesus were no match for the Roman or Temple guards, so they had no choice but to flee. Yet in the years to come, they would all distinguish themselves as fearless witnesses of the resurrection.

This is a proof that the resurrection is a fact and not myth. These men would not have changed so radically in response to a myth. They changed because what they saw and then taught what was the absolute truth!

**Do you ever worry whether or not you will be up to the task that God has for you?** Don't worry! God is able to make you able, fully equipped for His purpose in your life. If these weak and cowardly disciples could make such a change, you and I can, too!

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— 25 to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen (Jude 24-25).

v. 53 – They took Jesus to the High Priest, so that the Law caretakers could judge the Law Giver! This situation is so out of order, yet the so-called leaders felt perfectly comfortable passing judgment on this innocent Son of God. You

can see why God came to do away with the Law, fulfilling it in Jesus. The law was never meant to be an end in itself, but a means to an end. Of course that end was Jesus!

So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law (Galatians 3:24-25).

v. 54 – Ah ha! The young man who fled naked wasn't the only one following Jesus. Peter was, too. Peter sat with the guards, presumably those who had just arrested Jesus, and warmed himself by the fire. Little did he know that God's purpose was being fulfilled by his presence there. He was about to make history, but for all the wrong reasons.

### Day Six

55 The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. 56 Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. 57 Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: 58 "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.' " 59 Yet even then their testimony did not agree. 60 Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?"

v. 55 – Of course there was no evidence against Jesus, for He had done and still has not done, anything wrong. He is the sinless Son of God. Many have tried to find fault with God, including this writer. There were times when I examined God and thought He was wrong or had mishandled me or some other situation. What arrogance on my part to examine and question God! Yet that did not stop me, any more than it stopped those who examined Jesus in these verses.

There were also times that I felt I was more righteous than God, just as these elders and leaders did. I thought I had done what God wanted and He was not holding up His end of the bargain – and of course that bargain was something that would benefit me or make me feel good.

v. 56 – The liars could not get their lies to harmonize! Men purporting to stand for holiness to uphold the Law had to resort to falsehood. They broke one of the Ten Commandments to not bear false witness, but felt justified in doing so because it was all for a good cause in their eyes. There is no end to the inconsistency of sinful man, is there? Mark certainly established that there was no merit to the charges or the men bringing the charges against Jesus.

vs. 57&58 – Some arose to talk about what they thought Jesus had said about rebuilding the Temple in three days. Of course, He had been talking about Himself and not the physical Temple.

I am no different than those who testified. I wonder what I have heard that I think I understand, but don't? This is why I don't argue doctrine or Bible issues with anyone. I listen, present my thoughts and then leave plenty of room for the fact that I may be wrong! I try to keep in mind what Paul wrote:

[For we know in part and we prophesy in part \(1 Corinthians 13:9\).](#)

Yet that doesn't mean I am fuzzy in my theology. I am studying for a doctorate right now at Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary so that I can continue to understand God, the Bible and correct doctrine. Yet those studies cannot and should not make me proud or secure in my knowledge, for there is so much I don't know. I need to learn and grow as Paul reminded us:

[And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God \(Colossians 1:10\).](#)

**What are you doing to grow in the knowledge of God, His word and His ways? What are you willing to do?**

v. 59 – Even these witnesses who tried to recall and present what Jesus had actually said could not agree. Their problem wasn't their ability to speak but their inability to hear. This is why we need to have our ears circumcised; we don't hear very well without some spiritual surgery.

v. 60 – Finally, the high priest in his frustration turned to Jesus to obtain His assistance. He had no choice but to rely on Jesus incriminating Himself. In this court of lies, the truth would be out of order and prove Jesus' guilt. It is again ironic that this tribunal needed Jesus help or they could not achieve their desired end. And, as we will see, Jesus was only too glad to cooperate.

### [Day Seven](#)

[61 But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" 62 "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." 63 The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. 64 "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" They all condemned him as worthy of death. 65 Then some began](#)

to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him.

v. 61 – At first, Jesus did not answer. The high priest persisted, wanting to know if Jesus was the Messiah. What could Jesus do but tell the truth? He could have kept silent, I suppose, but it was time for the Sanhedrin to be confronted squarely with the truth. After that, they would have no excuse and all the reason they needed to proceed as they had already intended.

v. 62 – I am not sure if the "I am" here is a direct reference to the name of God given to Moses. I know that the reference to the Son of Man coming in the clouds was not a reference to the Second Coming. It was rather a reference to what had been discussed in Mark 13. The Temple and the system of worship that stood condemning Jesus would both be condemned and dismantled by the Son of God.

Why did that have to happen? Because a better sacrifice was about to be offered and there would never again be any need for an animal sacrifice or official priesthood.

v. 63 – I have to think that the priest caught the meaning of what Jesus said. **I wonder what made him angrier? Was it the fact that Jesus declared that He was the Messiah or that those there would see the end of their world as they knew it?**

The priest vented his rage by tearing his clothes, not a good sign. This is how strongly they all felt against Jesus and His mission. The priest came to a quick conclusion that no more witnesses were necessary. He had all the evidence he needed to condemn Jesus to death.

v. 64 – Here is another ironic twist. These men blasphemed God by denying that Jesus had come from the Father, yet they accused Jesus of blasphemy. In their confused but religious world, good was bad and bad was good.

Not just a few condemned him to death, but they all did. Was Nicodemus in that crowd? Joseph of Arimathea? I would think not, but the verdict was unanimous. It would make sense that they had not invited anyone to their party who would not agree with their premeditated plot.

v. 65 – The situation quickly deteriorated and they began to abuse Jesus. What restraint on the part of Jesus! He had declared that He could summon a legion of angels to intervene, but Jesus was so focused on the will of God that He refused to take up His own defense. He submitted to their taunts and abuse because He trusted His Father that He would be vindicated and raised from the dead.

The Father put Jesus through this to manifest His purity and sinlessness. Jesus is worthy of our adoration and praise because He showed His goodness under extreme hardship and condition. There was and is no imperfection in our Lord and Savior. He is worthy of our worship and praise.