

1. **Introduction:** The Passover meal is over. Jesus is now in the Garden of Gethsemane praying. Peter, John, and James are nearby. Judas left earlier to betray Jesus. The other 8 disciples wait near the entrance to the garden.
 - It is sadly true that loyalty is a rare trait. Skills can be learned, knowledge can be acquired, but converting a person with questionable loyalty into one with steadfast loyalty is not usually humanly possible.
 - In an example difficult for anyone to emulate, Jesus drew disloyal Judas close, even though as all 4 Gospels indicate, He knew Judas would betray Him.
 - Yet, in astounding grace, Jesus washed Judas' feet (John 13:2-5) and gave him an honored place next to Him at the Passover meal.
 - Jesus took Peter, John, and James deeper into the garden before He began to pray.
 - As we saw in Mark 14:34, as Jesus prays, He is distressed, troubled, and sorrowful to the point of death. He moves still deeper into the garden.
2. **Mark 14:35-36:** *And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."*
 - Jesus moved a short distance from Peter, James, and John. He began to pray earnestly, revealing the sore affliction that anticipated events are having on His human nature.
 - He pleads that, if possible, He might be spared the personal injustice of bearing God's wrath for human sin.
 - This is the only time in Scripture that Jesus' human will struggled with the Father's will.
 - As with Adam, once again there is a man in a garden confronted with two options – obedience to the Father or satisfying His own human will.
 - Unlike Adam, Jesus chooses to abide by the Father's will even though it will be at very painful cost to Him as a human person.
 - From verse 37, it appears that Jesus pleaded that time with the Father for an hour.
3. **Mark 14:37-39:** *And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.*
 - Jesus went to the spot where He had left Peter, James, and John and found them sleeping.
 - Perhaps it was understandable. It was late and they had eaten a big meal and drunk wine.
 - Jesus understood that being human included vulnerability and weakness.
 - Jesus didn't have a sin nature problem, but He did have the normal human desire for self-preservation. Anticipation of being beaten and crucified was agonizing to His human soul. Yet, He would do the Father's will.
 - Jesus needed His 3 close friends to stay alert and watch. They had not.

- Now, He pleaded with Peter to watch and pray.
 - We should recognize that in His human nature, Jesus was feeling continual, unrelenting temptation. He was in an ongoing battle against the forces of evil that, above all did not want Jesus to complete His mission.
 - Jesus again prayed that, if possible, He be permitted to not complete His mission requiring painful death. Once again, He said, *“Yet not what I will, but what you will.”*
4. **Mark 14:40-42**: *And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. ⁴¹ And he came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”*
- It appears Jesus had prayed about His upcoming agony for a total of about 3 hours. If they finished in the upper room about midnight, it is now 3 or 4 o’clock in the morning.
 - As He prayed in Gethsemane, Jesus’ human nature struggled, but there was no struggle when He was arrested, condemned, and crucified.
 - The cross is the place of victory where He won His battle, defeating sin, death, and the forces of evil.
 - In Gethsemane, His human nature had been tempted to disappear into the night. Evil was fighting a final desperate battle to destroy the redemptive plan of God. But Jesus stood fast, and evil lost the battle.
 - Adam did not stand steadfast in integrity. He fell into evil’s trap and drug all of humanity into slavery to sin.
 - But despite the agony Jesus faced, He emerged from the Gethsemane experience prepared and determined to complete His mission.
 - Jesus ordered the disciples with Him to wake up and witness His betrayal.
 - Jesus’ struggle with temptation was over. He was ready to greet Judas, His betrayer, the member of His “band of 12” who did not resist temptation.
 - Most likely, Jesus could hear Judas and the crowd as they came into the garden and approached where He was.
5. **Mark 14:43-44**: *And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard.”*
- Judas came with a group that had been assembled by the Sanhedrin. There were Temple guards and Roman troops, all armed with swords and clubs.
 - They came ready to take Jesus into custody and expecting trouble.
 - Judas had arranged to identify Jesus by greeting Him with a kiss.
 - Judas seems to have believed Jesus would be taken into a kind of protective custody. He may even have thought that in the threatening circumstances, it would be best for Jesus.

6. **Mark 14:45-47:** *And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” And he kissed him. ⁴⁶ And they laid hands on him and seized him. ⁴⁷ But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.*
- Judas spoke and kissed Jesus. The armed crowd immediately seized and bound Him.
 - During the resulting melee, someone (Peter) drew a short sword intended for close quarter fighting and cut off the ear of the high priest’s servant.
7. **Mark 14:48-49:** *And Jesus said to them, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? ⁴⁹ Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled.” ⁵⁰ And they all left him and fled.*
- Jesus asked a rhetorical question aimed at shaming them by pointing out the absurdity of their elaborate plan for arresting Him when they could, with no difficulty, have easily done it when He was in the Temple.
 - From the view of the Sanhedrin, a public arrest would have meant having to in public justify their actions. That, they did not want to have to do. So they arrest Him in a remote place late at night.
 - Their treatment of Jesus was indeed like one who robbed to support political insurrection.
 - Nothing Jesus said would turn them from their sinful injustice to Him.
8. **Mark 14: 50-52:** *And they all left him and fled. ⁵¹ And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, ⁵² but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.*
- The soldiers bound Jesus and led Him toward the garden entrance. The disciples ran away into the night, Judas included. A few hid in the shadows watching from a distance.
 - Mark adds a curious comment about a young man who was there, perhaps having followed the crowd who were there to arrest Jesus. When the soldiers led Jesus out of the garden, the young man followed them.
 - At some point, he was noticed and seized. He was clad only in a linen cloth. When he was seized, he slipped out of the garment and ran away naked into the night.
 - Since this bit of information seems to have no connection with the rest of the narrative, it is often speculated that the young man was Mark himself.
 - It is interesting Mark never again mentions Judas. From Matthew’s Gospel, it is known that Judas felt great remorse and not long after this event hanged himself (Mt 27:5).
 - Remorse is not repentance. There is no indication Judas repented.
 - The captive Jesus was first carried directly to the home of Annas the former high priest who was a powerful figure in the ruling hierarchy.
 - There Jesus underwent the first of six trials (Jn 18:12-23). This first trial was illegal. Annas had no jurisdiction. No specific charges were brought, but they found Jesus guilty of irreverence. They abused Jesus.

- Next, Jesus was sent to the current high priest, Caiaphas. The second trial is covered in Mark 14:53-65 and in both Matthew and John.
9. **Mark 14:53-54**: *And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. ⁵⁴ And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire.*
- As a captive, Jesus was first carried directly to the home of Annas the former high priest who was a powerful figure in the ruling hierarchy.
 - There Jesus underwent the first of six trials (Jn 18:12-23). No specific charges were brought. It was in fact an illegal trial. Annas had no jurisdiction. There were no witnesses questioned. Jesus was found guilty of irreverence. They abused Jesus.
 - Next, Jesus was sent to the current high priest, Caiaphas. This second trial is covered in Mark 14:53-65 and in both Matthew and John. This trial was before the Sanhedrin.
10. **Mark 14:53-54**: *And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. ⁵⁴ And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire.*
- Peter and John followed. John was able to go into the trial (Jn 18:15).
 - Peter, who had kept further back, ended up in the courtyard with servants and soldiers warming themselves by a fire. Peter tried to hide his identity.
11. **Mark 14:55-59**: *Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. ⁵⁶ For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷ And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, ⁵⁸ “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’” ⁵⁹ Yet even about this their testimony did not agree.*
- This second trial was led by Caiaphas, the high priest, and included the Sanhedrin. At first that seems to make it a legal trial. But it was illegal for being held at night, involving false witnesses, and without a formal charge.
 - Further trials in which the defendant was accused of a crime that could lead to a death sentence were supposed to begin with an accusation and move immediately to arguments for *acquittal*.
 - This trial was peculiar in that the council asked for evidence hoping to find a credible accusation.
 - “Made with hands” was a phrase used by the Jews to refer to anything constructed for the purpose of worshipping idols or false gods. That statement offended and agitated the members of the council.
 - We will consider the way this trial ended next lesson.