

MARK 14:27-52

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. What does Jesus tell the disciples they will do? What does He tell Peter that he will do? How do the disciples respond?
2. The quote Jesus uses in verse 27 comes from Zechariah 13:7, look up that verse and note any observations.
3. Where does Jesus go and who does he take with him in verses 32ff.?
4. What do you notice about Jesus emotional state and what does he ask in prayer?
5. What are we told about the disciples' actions in the garden? How many times does Jesus come to them?
6. What breaks up the time of prayer?
7. Note the contrasts in this passage (Jesus points out a major one in verse 48-49).
8. What is strange about the passage? Look for things that don't seem to make sense.
9. What are the responses of Jesus' disciples here in this passage?

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. Why does Jesus tell his disciples that they would deny Him? Wouldn't it have been better to try and motivate them to stand by Him? What purpose does his prophecy of their scattering serve?
2. How does Peter view himself in relation to the other disciples?
3. Gethsemane is a Hebrew word meaning "oil press." Relate how this experience of grief and sorrow for Jesus impacts your view of prayer.
4. Why does Jesus ask for the hour to pass Him by - that the cup pass from Him? We really get a glimpse of the humanity and suffering of Jesus here. What do you learn from Jesus here?
5. Why does Jesus take Peter, James and John with Him? Why don't they have the same sense of importance or urgency as Jesus does?
6. What is the relationship between the flesh/body and the spirit? How does one affect the other and what is the key to the functioning of the two.
7. What is the balance given here between what we want and what God wants? How do we get to the place where we say: "Not what I will, but what You will"?
8. Why does the mob come to Jesus armed with clubs and swords? What does this tell you about Judas' misunderstanding of the mission of Jesus?
9. Compare 14:31 and Peter's statement about dying with Jesus to his actions in 47 (compare John 18:3-11 where we are told the certain one in 14:47 is Peter). What does this tell you about Peter's misunderstanding of Jesus' mission and plan?
10. In verse 49 Jesus tells us that they came with swords and clubs in order that the Scripture be fulfilled. What Scripture is being fulfilled (look at the result in verse 50 and compare with 14:27)?
11. Why are we told about the young man in verses 51-52? Is this just a nonsensical insertion or does this mentioning have some significance? What do you think?

APPLICATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME/US?

1. Have you ever failed/denied the Lord? How did that make you feel? Have you pursued/received forgiveness?
2. Knowing that we would have responded as the disciples in both of these accounts (denial/scattering and falling asleep in prayer) how do you deal with your failures and shortcomings as a Christian? Do you have a tendency to try harder or to give up in the face of living the Christian life?
3. Have you ever had a "Gethsemane" experience? (That is, an experience of grief/sorrow/challenge that overwhelmed you and demanded total dependence upon the will and strength of God)
4. How will the Gethsemane story change how you pray this week?
5. How would you have responded had you been with Jesus in the garden?
6. Have you ever felt betrayed? How did you handle it? Have you ever betrayed someone? How did you feel? What should our response to Judas be?

ACTION PLAN

Spend time personally and with others in coming up with an action plan inspired by your study. What in this passage compels you to desire a change, to move to action, to become more like Jesus? It could be a change in thinking, behavior, character. It could be internal or external. It could be personal or relational. Just don't leave studying the Bible as simply an intellectual exercise.