

# Sermon Discussion Questions



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

## “JESUS: FROM GRIEF IN THE GARDEN TO ALONE IN THE DARK”

**Big Idea:** The reality of who Jesus is confronts all of us.  
How will we respond?

### Discuss

The passage being considered this week is rather lengthy, and your small group may decide to focus primarily on one part or another depending on the amount of time you have. The sermons on this section of Mark consider three primary events that occurred the night before Jesus’ death: 1) the shameful desertion of Jesus not only by the one who betrayed him, but also by all of his other disciples, 2) the charade of a trial that Jesus endured, and 3) Jesus’ stunning declaration about himself. Accounts of the betrayal, seizure, and trial of Jesus are found in all four gospels (see also Matt. 26:47-67; Luke 22:47-71; and John 18:2-14, 19-24). The story of the young man fleeing naked is found only in Mark’s gospel, leading most commentators to believe that the young man was none other than Mark himself.

- 1) Why do you think Judas betrayed Jesus, and why did the disciples abandon him? As you discuss this, consider the following:
  - the fact that no story about Judas in the Bible indicates that the disciples had any idea that Judas would become a traitor
  - what the disciples had witnessed during their three years spent with Jesus, and in particular, what they had seen and been a part of in the 48 hours prior to Jesus’ arrest
  - what the presence of clubs and swords might reveal about the way Jesus’ contemporaries viewed him (remembering that not only those coming to arrest Jesus, but also at least one bystander, identified in John 18:10 as Peter, was bearing a sword—see v. 47)
- 2) Are the disciples really in the Kingdom of God or not? Explain your answer.
- 3) The account of the informal and unjust trial of Jesus before the Sanhedrin has much to reveal about Jesus and his Kingdom.
  - If Jesus was merely a wise moral teacher—as many people today believe—how are we to understand his behavior before the Sanhedrin and the one and only statement he made (v. 62)? In other words, is it possible to square Jesus’ answer with the claim that Jesus was nothing more than a gifted and kind rabbi?
  - What characterizes Jesus and his Kingdom in comparison with the Jewish leaders and their priorities?
    - ◊ What do you find particularly comforting, reassuring, or strengthening after considering the betrayal of Jesus, his trial, and his bold declaration?

DATE: March 24, 2019

SPEAKER: Frank/Brian

SERIES: The Gospel of Mark

PASSAGE: Mark 14:43-65

### Pray

“Lead on, O King eternal, till sin’s fierce war shall cease, and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;

For not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums, but deeds of love and mercy, the heav’nly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears, for gladness breaks like morning where’er thy face appears;

thy cross is lifted o’er us; we journey in its light: the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might.”

*(text by Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1888)*

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:57)

#### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Covenant Seminary

#### PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Mark and Brigitte serving in a sensitive area