

October 26th 2008: Mark: Abandoned: Mark 14:27-52

In continuing our study of Mark.....come to Mark 14:27-52.....**Abandoned**

And I'm sure the reason.....Title....will become quite obvious...as we read

→Turn to Mark 14:27-52.....

The passage begins....words of....**YOU WILL ALL FALL AWAY**....ends...story 1st stalker

In between.....stories of abandonment.....flow fast and free

- Jesus prediction of His disciples abandonment and of Peter's denial
- Gethsemane
- Disciples sleeping when He specifically asked them to keep watch
- Judas' betrayal of Him with a kiss
- Everyone deserting Him and fleeing
- One young man so scared that He fled naked

We have all experience.....differing degrees.....abandonment....betrayal....desertion

Left to face things by ourselves.....by those we felt were our friends.....Loved ones

Let down by those we expected more from

TIMES OF

Being overwhelmed by a sense of aloneness.....**in all** our pain and grief...anxiety

Maybe THAT's YOU THIS MORNING ???

Others say.....I know what you are going thro.....**BUT** they don't

Jesus does.....

But to get His help you need to spend time in His presence

Looking at that list....I'm sure.....most if not all....know something about...incident

- **Take the first** account of Jesus' prediction of Peter's denial

How many of you have heard at least one sermon on the subject of Peter's...??

Gethsemane:.....Just before Easter I preached a sermon

Now you may not see this as an example of abandonment

God never abandoned His Son....you may well say.....And indeed He didn't

But Jesus in Gethsemane.....and later on the cross.....exp the feeling of being...

He prays to His Father addresses Him as Abba....as daddy

He pours out his heart.....with real agony of soul.....yet there is no comforting word

Just silence

David Garland in his commentary on Mark writes(p 542 NIV Application Commentary):-

In Gethsemane, Jesus meets the dreadful silence of heaven. There is no reassuring voice from heaven proclaiming, "This is my Son, whom I love." No dove descends. God has already spoken, and His Son must obey. Jesus overcomes the silence, fights off the human temptation to do as He wills, and through prayer acquiesces to God's will."

Then we have the sleeping disciples

These same ones....who all professed loyalty to Him....even to death
are found three times....sleeping....when they were asked to guard Him
at the time...He knew.. He would be most vulnerable.....to physical & spiritual attack.

We are not told how long.....spent in prayer...I feel it would have been several hours
But we are told that 3 times.....Not to check on them for His sake....but for theirs!!

Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

He who had no one caring for Him.....cared about them

Of course.....Judas' betrayal of Jesus with a kiss.....has become a cliché
Like 'et tu Brutus'.....it's got a place in our modern vernacular
Betrayist thou me with a kiss??

- **The kiss of course** was a sign to the armed and dangerous crowd.....
That this one was Jesus.....He was the One they must not let go

For in those days where clothing.....hair ...beards were so similar.....Jesus would not

The interesting thing is that in v42.....(Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!"
and kissed him.)

The word Kissed is a Greek word that means he kissed Jesus earnestly, intensively or repeatedly

John MacArthur writes:

Judas evidently knew no shame. He could have chosen any signal for identifying Christ to his fellow conspirators. He deliberately chose one that compounded his own guilt with the most diabolical kind of hypocrisy. He seems to have deliberately drawn out his kissing in order to detain Jesus as long as possible, to be sure that the soldiers had time to apprehend him.

Then of course we have the account of everyone deserting him

Summed up perhaps by the unusual story.....of this young man....

Many feel that was probably Mark himself

But why include it?.....The answer may well be a verse in Amos
which speaks about God's judgment on His.....because of their sins

Amos 2: **16** *Even the bravest warriors will flee naked on that day," declares the LORD.*

Stories of desertion.....Stories of Betrayal.....Stories of our Lord being Abandoned

In the film Braveheart

→ *the story of William Wallace who has managed to gather the feuding clans to fight against "Longshanks" the British King. Yet before the battle he is informed that the Scottish Lords have sold him out for gold and estates. Despite that betrayal. Despite that abandonment, Wallace goes impulsively ahead and in the end he brutally executed in the public square by his enemies*

He too knew betrayal and abandonment

But the huge difference between what he went through.....and Jesus
Is that Jesus knew from the beginning (Scriptures)**that all** would desert Him
yet He went ahead alone...to carry the sin of the world

Look at Mark 14:27

"You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "for it is written:
" 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'

And again in v49 at the moment of His arrest

Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. **But the Scriptures must be fulfilled."**

- **He know way before this moment**.....what lay ahead....and he knew why

He was confident that he would return to Galilee and meet

But He knew that before then....the pathway.....would **be beset** with abandonment with immense humiliation.....**horrendous suffering**

- **Yet such was His love for**Such was His desire to give you life.....
Such was His passion to save us from hell.....**That He** took that journey
Fulfilled those Scriptures.....and offered up His life...a sacrifice for many

This is my Saviour....This is my Redeemer.....**This is my Jesus**.....Is He yours?

One of Peter Rees' favourite hymns begins with these words:

***Man of sorrows, wondrous name
For the Son of God who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim!
Hallelujah! What a Saviour!***

