

Fifth Sunday in Lent – 2024

Saturday, 3/16 at 4:00 & Sunday, 3/17 at 9:00



The Holy Week Journey

Text: Mark 14:26-41 NAS-95

> Jesus Foretells
Peter's Denial
> Jesus Prays in
Gethsemane

Based on the Booklet
Days 26-27

Lenten Wednesdays: Services 11 & 7; Meals 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: We are now more than halfway through The Holy Week Journey – *as we preach through Holy Week according to St. Mark in 14 sermons.* This is sermon **9 of 14**.

So far, we have moved through:

- Palm Sunday – *anointing and excitement!*
- Holy Monday – *cursing and cleansing!*
- Holy Tuesday – *challenges and teaching!*
- Holy Wednesday – with nothing recorded by Mark.
- Holy Thursday – *Passover meal preparation.*
- Good Friday – which began at sunset on Thursday. So far, we have covered *the Passover meal being eaten and the Lord's Supper being instituted.*

We now resume our journey, *later in the evening*, as Jesus and His disciples leave the upper room and walk toward the Garden of Gethsemane. These events are all part of the fulfillment of this prophecy in Zechariah 3:9: **"I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day."**

Day 26 (Th, 3/14) – Jesus Foretells Peter’s Denial: 14:26

After singing a hymn [in the upper room], they went out to the Mount of Olives [which may have been a walk of approximately 3/4’s of a mile (the distance is uncertain because the location of the upper room is unknown)].²⁷ And Jesus said to them [as they were walking], “You will all fall away, because it is written, ‘I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP SHALL BE SCATTERED.’²⁸ But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” // With those words, Jesus said SO MUCH: As prophesied, ➡ He would be struck down AND His disciples would be scattered. ➡ He also spoke of His death and resurrection, yet His disciples didn’t even react to His dying and rising. Let us take EVERY statement of Jesus to heart!

²⁹ But Peter said to [Jesus], “Even though all may fall away, yet **I will not.**”³⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Truly I say to you, that this very night, before a rooster crows twice, you yourself will deny Me three times.”³¹ But Peter kept saying insistently, “Even if I have to die with You, **I will not deny You!**” And they all were saying the same thing also.

- Crows twice: There is nothing exact about a rooster crowing, *but they do tend to crow twice* – once during the night, *which may not be heard by those sound asleep*, but again, and louder, *just before sunrise*. Jesus knew **WHAT** would happen and **WHEN!**
- Peter was confident in himself: “**I will not deny you!**” Peter was in a good situation: He ➡ believed Jesus was the Messiah, ➡ trusted in Jesus as His Savior and Lord, and ➡ was determined to stick with Him no matter what, BUT he had at least one HUGE problem: *He thought he had the ability of himself to keep confessing Jesus!* The Bible says, “let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor. 10:12).

- Let us trust in God for everything: Paul wrote about *his situation*, which seemed like *certain death*: “...we experienced this sentence of death within ourselves so that we might learn not to trust in ourselves but in God, who raises the dead” (2Co. 1:9 NET). *It’s best when we trust in God FOR EVERYTHING!*

Day 27 (Fr, 3/15) – Jesus Prays in Gethsemane: 14:32 They came to a place named Gethsemane [which means, olive press]; and He said to His disciples [those who trusted in Him, followed Him, and learned from Him], “Sit here until I have prayed.”³³ And He took with Him Peter and James and John [to another location in the olive tree garden], and began to be very distressed [disturbed, alarmed] and troubled [anxious].³⁴ And He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved [very sad] to the point of death; remain here and keep watch.” // Jesus, being the Son of God, knew what was coming – arrest, trials, beating, mocking, crucifixion, sin-bearing, wrath, and death! Therefore, His human nature – *aware of the coming excruciating pain **and** spiritual agony* – was miserable!

³⁵ And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell to the ground and *began* to pray that if it were possible, the hour [the period of time, that is, the next 18 hours or so when He would obediently go through horrible things to win our salvation] might pass Him by.

³⁶ And He was saying, “Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will.” // The human nature of Jesus desperately wanted to avoid the dread of what was coming, but, **EVEN MORE**, He wanted to do the will of His Father in heaven!

³⁷ And [Jesus] came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?”³⁸ Keep watching [for the forces of evil] and praying [to

God] that you may not come into temptation; the spirit [the new nature] is willing, but the flesh is weak.” // Peter, who adamantly said he would **not** deny Jesus, could **not** even fight off the temptation to close his eyes and sleep.

³⁹ Again He went away and prayed, saying the same words.

⁴⁰ 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 resting? It is enough; the hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.”

- Three times: Jesus’ overwhelming grief moved Him to triple-check with His Father – *to see if there might be some other way to take away the sin of the world.*
- Jesus was made ready: Through His time in prayer, Jesus knew what He had to do AND was ready to do it!
- At the needed time: As soon as Jesus was made ready, *His betrayer arrived!* Let us always trust in God to provide what we need – ***when we need it!***

The Holy Week Journey continues this Wednesday with Jesus’ betrayal and arrest!

Let Us Pray: Dear Holy Spirit, help us to apply this sermon by
♦ humbling ourselves, ♦ trusting in God for everything, and
♦ being eternally grateful to Jesus for His finished work to save us!

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