



The setting in Mark's Gospel now shifts from the Upper Room in Jerusalem where Jesus ate a Passover meal with His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus would be betrayed & arrested. The crucifixion is fast approaching. In about 15 hours, Jesus will be dead. Now when we think of these events, our focus tends to be on the conniving Jews & brutal Romans who rejected the Lord, hated Him, and killed Him. But the Bible also forces us to look at the horribly disappointing actions and unbelievable failures of His closest friends and followers. There is a sad tale of *how not to treat Jesus*. And to be honest, I'd rather avoid seeing this stuff because their pitiful weaknesses and failures remind me too much of my own poor treatment of Christ at times. But of course, that's why the story is told. It is a warning of how even those who belong to Christ, can so easily revert to treating Him shamefully. It is a reminder of how much we really did need Jesus to die for our sins. It is a strong word of challenge, from the Word of God, to learn from the mistakes of others and become better at treating Jesus with enduring love and courageous loyalty.

THE NEGATIVE TREATMENT

1. (vv. 27-29) Boastfulness –
2. (vv. 30-31) Stubbornness –
3. (vv. 32-36) Laziness –
4. (vv. 37-42) Prayerlessness –

5. (vv. 43- 45) Phoniness –

6. (vv. 46-50) Faithlessness –

7. (vv. 51-52) Loneliness –

THE POSITIVE TRUTHS

1. Recognize these negative patterns of spiritual failure and ...
2. Relax because Jesus will never ...
3. Rejoice because Jesus ...
4. Regroup because Jesus is ...

FOR THOUGHT & TALK

In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of PJ's message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don't have to cover them all.

1. Engage your imagination as you read aloud Mark 14: 27-52. Imagine if you had been there in Gethsemane. What would be your thoughts & feelings as you witnessed the agony of Jesus and the arrest of Jesus? How do you think Jesus must have felt as His closest friends so profoundly let Him down at the very time He needed them most?
2. As you look at the seven ways by which the disciples mistreated Jesus, which one(s) are you personally most prone toward yourself? PJ said that as believers we must see these patterns of failure and then "reject them daily." The question is ... how do we do that?
3. Okay, Jesus will never fail you nor forsake you. Additionally, He will most definitely always forgive you. What sort of impact can these powerful truths have upon you when you find your heart is wounded, or your brain is doubting, or your actions have been sinful?
4. Why is it crucial to constantly be told and then fully believe that Jesus picked you out to power you up? And what is it He is powering you up to be & do?