

## The PATH, August 12-18, 2018

Theme: This week we will continue to look at the Gospel of Mark, and specifically at the things that Jesus did and said. What do these things show us about Jesus? What do they show us about ourselves? As we consider the person and the work of Jesus Christ, let us pray that the Holy Spirit would use these truths to transform us for the glory of the Father.

### **Monday** - Read Mark 14:32-42

Jesus was at His lowest point, His soul was sorrowful even to death (v. 34). That means He was so overcome that He almost couldn't go on, the reality of the cross was before Him, and so He asked His 3 closest friends to go with Him to the garden to pray. He withdrew from them a little to pray alone, and when He returned to them He found them asleep. We know the story well, and this scene repeated itself a total of 3 times. Could you not pray with me one hour? Could you not watch one hour? Jesus asks His friends. It is obvious that in His time of greatest need His friends let Him down. They failed. Why? The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak (v. 38). It is a powerful and somewhat painful picture of our human limitations. They didn't mean to fall asleep, they just did. They didn't plan on letting Him down, I'm sure they were honored to be asked to go and thought they would do whatever He asked them to do, but they failed. Many times we are just like that aren't we? We are limited, we are frail human beings. We think we can stand strong against temptation. We think we can love people. We think we can forgive people. We think we can spend time in prayer, and time and time again we fail. Why? Because our flesh is weak. However here is the good news, the Spirit inside of us is not. The Holy Spirit of God resides within us and He is not weak at all, so as we walk by faith (Galatians 5:16) we can do the things that God asks of us. As we rely on the Holy Spirit and not on ourselves we really can say no to temptation, we really can love others, we really can forgive people. We really can go to Him in prayer and actually pray. All those things are possible and more, not because of who we are, but because of whose we are. We belong to Jesus and He has given us His Spirit as the guarantee of our inheritance. So today really rely on God's Spirit, ask His Spirit to give you strength. Remember you are limited, but He is not.

### **Tuesday** - Read Mark 14:32-42

The contrast is startling. Jesus, God come in the flesh, needs to pray and so He runs to the Father in prayer. The disciples just go to sleep. They needed to pray as well, they just didn't. When I read this passage and take time to survey this scene I can't help but say if Jesus needed to pray, how much more do I need to pray. But then life happens, things get busy, we get forgetful, we (like the disciples) get tired, and instead of praying, and running to the Father, we just go to sleep. Or get distracted. Or just forget. So today would you take time to pray? Would you ask God today to help you be committed to prayer. Pray for our schools, pray for our church, pray for the lost, pray that you would have strength to say no to temptation, and pray for others. Pray for them to follow Jesus, pray for the sick to be healed, pray for the grieving to be comforted. Pray for wisdom and guidance. Pray for our country. Pray for revival. We really have a lot to pray, so we really need to pray.

### **Wednesday** - Read Mark 14:32-42

Jesus isn't just in a hard time here, Jesus prays a very hard prayer. In fact it is the hardest prayer to pray, "not my will but Yours be done." Jesus Himself says to the Father, my flesh wishes there was another way, but its not what I want, it's what you want. It is an extremely hard prayer to truthfully pray,

because all of us from birth want our own way. So to pray “not my will but yours be done,” is hard because it runs totally the opposite of who we are. Yet it is a prayer that every follower of Jesus should pray because it is a prayer of trust. It is a prayer that says I know what I want in this situation, but Father I trust that you know best. It is a prayer of dependence, a prayer that says God you make whatever you want happen, I am dependent on you. It is a prayer of release, where you basically say God I’m releasing control, you are King of Kings and Lord of Lords, so be the Lord of my life. May Your Will be done! Where do you need to pray that today? What situation are you overcome by? Where do you find it hard to trust God? What are you still trying to control? Make your prayer today, “not what I want Lord, but what you want!”

#### **Thursday** - Read Mark 14:43-52

I cannot begin to imagine what Jesus was going through. His three closest friends had just failed Him, and now another friend has betrayed Him. He’s being arrested and the cross is right around the corner. It is beyond my imagination to think how He must have felt. Many people know this story very well, and they also know the fact that Jesus is God, and so they minimize what happens here. Jesus is God but Jesus is also man, so He feels what we would feel in a moment such as this. He feels the pain of being let down. He feels the horror of betrayal. He feels the fear of being arrested. He dreads the brutality of the cross. He is just like us in those regards, but He is not like us in how He responds to those situations. He forgives His disciples for failing Him, later on He forgives Peter for denying Him, I have no doubt that He would have even forgiven Judas, if Judas would have repented. He forgives the soldiers who put Him on the cross and the crowd as they cry out crucify Him. He also forgives you and me, for it is our sins that put Him on that cross. Yes, it was Judas’ betrayal, and the crowd’s insistence, and the Roman soldiers’ power, but it was our sins as well. In fact the Bible says “He made Him who knew no sin, to become sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” My sin nailed Him to the cross, but His love forgave me and washed those sins away. Just simply take time to be thankful today.

#### **Friday** - Read Mark 14:43-52

Such an odd detail to include in the story: “and a young man followed Jesus, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.” Why on earth does Mark include this here? Perhaps to give such a minute detail to show that it really did come from an eyewitness, but many scholars say it is more than just that. They believe and probably rightfully so that Mark himself is the eyewitness and that this young boy is him. He was following Jesus, he was caught, he ran out of his clothes, and he ran away naked. That had to be not only extremely scary, but also somewhat embarrassing. So why does Mark include this detail? Yes to show that he was an eyewitness to what went on, but also to show what life is like without Jesus. He was naked and ashamed, but later on he was clothed with the righteousness of Christ. He was fearful but he became a courageous follower of Jesus. That is the power of what God can do. Hallelujah what a Savior! So keep praying that God would change the heart of that person who is lost. Keep praying that He will transform you as well.