



Jesus had been often seen in the Temple during the week before His arrest. But it is only here and now that the officials come for Him. To understand this turn of events a bit better, look back and read 11:18; 12:12; and 14:1-2, 10-11.

What has occurred that makes this particular evening the right time to arrest Jesus?

Why hadn't Jesus' opponents acted earlier? How are they hoping things will go given that they are arresting Him at this place and point in time?

Look back on the description of the religious leaders' response to Judas in 14:10. Couple that with what you see in the crowd that has come to take Jesus away in 14:43. How would you characterize the disposition of those in the crowd? Why?

How do you feel about people responding to Jesus in such clearly passionate—although clearly not affirming—ways?

How do you make sense of their passionate objection and resistance to Jesus?

Sometimes when we are talking with people who don't know Jesus, we can end up feeling caught by surprise faced with their hostility toward Him or their delight in shaming Him. However here in this passage, Jesus seems not to be taken aback by such responses. He knows that some will respond to Him in such a fashion. It is possible that some of those who were responsible for this opposition ended up coming to trust Him as Savior; grace can do that. But take to heart the calm and unruffled way that Jesus responded to this frenzied mob. Ask Him how you can maintain your "cool" in the presence of those who seem so opposed to Him.

Day Five

Let's look closely at the few words that Mark tells us were spoken by Jesus in the Garden in the presence of the mob. Read Mark 14:48-49.

How would someone in the crowd answer the first question that Jesus asked?

What do you think Jesus is driving at? What is He underscoring for those who have come to take Him away?

What does Jesus want those who are opposing Him to see or understand by what He says about His daily practice of teaching in the Temple?

Whether in the Temple courtyards or here in the Garden, Jesus appears to be "approachable." What is He highlighting by pointing this out?

What does it mean about Jesus' own thinking about His impending death at the hands of His opponents that He makes Himself so accessible to them?

The last thing Jesus says has to do with the Scriptures. What is His point?

The crowd comes. The tension is extremely high. Swords are drawn and tempers flare. Shouts and the smell of smoke fill the air. And in the midst of it is Jesus. He speaks. He explains. He insists that in all of this the Scriptures are being fulfilled. How does this picture of Jesus draw you to Him? What impresses you about Him in the midst of this Garden scene?



Day One

We are looking at some of the most solemn and sobering moments in the life and ministry of Jesus. Take this to heart as you read Mark 14:22-31.

What are the "hard things" that Jesus tells His followers as recorded for us by Mark in this section?

One could easily be discouraged or disheartened, hearing these words from Him. But in and around everything He tells them, Jesus also offers a number of encouraging promises. Specifically, what promise is implicit in what Jesus says in the following verses?

14:24-25:

14:27-28:

What do you think might have motivated Peter to insist that he would not "fall away" from Jesus? What other things in Mark's account might provide some insight into what might be motivating Peter at this point in time?

One way to read Jesus' words to Peter would be as a strong rebuke and censure. But there might be another way to understand what Jesus is saying. How could you hear those words in a more positive light?

What do you think Jesus really wants Peter to hear?



Taken all together, it is clear that Jesus: 1) knows that his future includes suffering and death; 2) knows that this will result in His disciples abandoning Him; and 3) knows that He will be reunited with them! Although the immediate future looks so sad and disturbing, Jesus clearly sees beyond that into a much different future. Watch Jesus tenderly speak to these friends of His in this tense and troubling moment. And then use what you see to lead you to press into even greater intimacy with Jesus, no matter what your immediate future might look like. Talk to Him.

Day Two

Clearly, the disciples knew that Jesus was a man of prayer. They, in fact, had earlier asked Him to teach them to pray. But it isn't often, in the Gospels, that we are given a picture of Jesus, Himself, in prayer. So, this moment recorded for us by Mark, is particularly significant.

Let's start with the "big picture." How do you typically think about the "prayer life" of Jesus? Do you think Jesus has to pray? Prays often? Why or why not?

If Jesus, in the days of His incarnation, were to pray, what do you typically think He would pray about? Why?

Look closely at Jesus' praying as recorded here. Read Mark 14:32-42.

What is different about how Jesus actually prays and the way you typically think about His prayer life? Why?

What seems to be the biggest concern of Jesus in His praying?

Jesus addresses God as "Abba." That is an Aramaic (a form of Hebrew) word that perhaps could best be translated "Daddy." What does that way of speaking to God indicate about Jesus' prayer life? About His relationship with God, the Father?

It must be admitted that Jesus' relationship with the Father is unique; no one has a relationship with God *identical* to that which Jesus has with the Father. However, Jesus does invite us into a *similar* relationship to the one He enjoys with the Father. (This is pictured in Jesus' prayer recorded for us in John 17.) With that in mind, what do you see in Jesus' praying in the Garden that might aid you to deepen or enrich your own life in prayer with God? How can Jesus' experience of prayer shape some new experiences for you?

Day Three

Let's press in a little closer and listen to Jesus as He speaks about prayer. Read Mark 14:37-42.

Why do you think Jesus is praying, here in the Garden?

Does it matter that He prays? Does something happen in His praying? Is He "just going through the motions"? Why?

How do you understand what Jesus tells Peter? Why should Peter pray?

When Jesus speaks about the "flesh" being weak, He is not speaking about "flesh" the way Christians sometimes think of it ("sinful nature"). What Jesus apparently

means is that even, at times, when the heart/spirit is inclined in God's direction, our very "human-ness" (our "flesh," our human nature) might resist or pull away. In what way do you think Peter needs to understand this?

Look back at what Jesus says about Himself in 14:34. What does He tell you about what His experience is going into the Garden?

Look at how Jesus comes out of the Garden in 14:42 and 49. What difference do you see between Jesus' disposition as He enters the Garden and how He seems to be when they come to arrest Him?

What accounts for the change? What happened that He was no longer, apparently, overwhelmed to the point of death?

What does this imply about Jesus' own words regarding the "spirit being willing but the flesh being weak"?

Looking reverently and humbly at Jesus praying in the Garden, it would appear that Jesus, Himself, undergoes some change in the process of praying. Although He never was reluctant to embrace the will of the Father, in His incarnation He did shrink back from the horror of the cross that lay ahead of Him. How could this intimate and moving picture of Jesus' life of prayer call you forward to more intimate and passionate prayer?

Day Four

The time has come for Jesus' betrayal. Read Mark 14:43-52.