



**Mark 14:32–72**  
**Lesson 22**

*The sands of the hourglass are moving swiftly as our Lord embracing the last hours of His earthly life. The strain and pressure of what is coming is bearing down, and one can only imagine the fierceness of the battle He endured as, moment by moment, He willfully laid down His life for mankind. This chapter is filled with tension, drama, and emotion. May the Spirit of God quicken our hearts and sober our minds to the cost of Calvary.*

***Concentrating on the Context: Mark 14:32–72***

- Using the following 'postcard segments,' record the biblical information and personal observations you make from each section. In your own words, recount this chapter passage by passage:

*\*\* Remember don't use your imagination to produce facts—but use it to bring biblical facts to life. Record what you see as you read. \*\**

<i>Verses 32–42</i>
<i>Verses 43–52</i>
<i>Verses 53–65</i>
<i>Verses 66–72</i>

*The Courage of Gethsemane: Mark 14:32–42*

*Jesus prayer in Gethsemane is one of the most powerful moments in Scripture. The incredible impact of what was about to take place seems to culminate here. Never was Jesus more human than at this point, and from here He provides a magnificent example of obedience through unimaginable difficulty and stress. In an agony no person will ever understand or experience, He drank the cup the Father prepared for Him.*

2. Jesus had gone often to this garden; normally it was a place of solitude and stillness before the Father, but tonight it was the site of supplication and sorrow. Who does Jesus take with Him deep into the garden?
  - a. After becoming deeply distressed, what does Jesus say to the three disciples?
  - b. The terrible reality of physical agony and separation from God that would soon take place must have been overwhelming to Him. Do you think these three men could sense the gravity of the situation?
3. As Jesus begins to pour out in prayer, notice how He addresses His prayer. Write it out here.
  - a. How important is it to remember God as Abba when dealing with severe trouble, stress, or trial?
  - b. Write out as many comforts that flow out of a relationship with your Heavenly Father.

*“Only Jesus knew what God was and could be to the lonely soul.  
As the mountain is reflected in the lake at its foot, so the Father  
saw Himself perfectly reflected in Jesus.”*

*F. B. Meyer*

4. In his humanity, what did Jesus ask the Father?
  - a. What is the over-riding impression you get from this prayer?
5. Do you find instruction in verse 38 regarding our defense in crisis?

- a. Where does Satan target the life of a believer?
  
- b. Can you relate to the disciples? Have you ever ‘fallen asleep’—figuratively or physically—when you should have been alert and praying?

***Bringing it into Focus:***

*Prayer is our greatest weapon to endure and overcome difficulty. Would you say that to “fall on the ground and pray” is your first response to adversity? Why or why not? How have you experienced God’s strengthening power when you have come to Him in the midst of a trying circumstance?*

- 6. How can we prepare for frightening situations with a heart of courage? Consider the following passages and write out their instruction for you in times of difficulty.

Scripture Reference	Instruction
Joshua 1:8–9	
Proverb 3:5–6	
Isaiah 41:10	
2 Timothy 1:7	
2 Timothy 1:12	

**The Cruel Arrest: Mark 14:43–52**

*Coming immediately from prayer, Jesus meets a battalion of soldiers. Hearts are pumping, adrenaline rising, swords in hand...no one knows what to expect—except ONE! Now arrested and abandoned, Jesus makes no attempts to defend Himself; of his own will, He gave His life for the sins of the world.*

- 7. How did Judas identify Jesus?

- a. What words did he used to distinguish Him?
  - b. How did Jesus refer to His betrayer? (Matthew 26:50)
8. The soldiers obviously expected Jesus to put up a fight. However, it was not He, but another “who stood by” who offered the resistance. Who was this, and in what form did the resistance come?
- a. Matthew 26:51–54 and John 18:10–11 offer more insight into Jesus’ response to this incident. Describe in your own words how He admonishes Peter’s actions.
9. Verse 50 contains some of the saddest words in the New Testament. Not one of the disciples remained at Jesus’ side. After all they had seen and heard with Jesus, why do you think they lost all courage and hope that night?
- a. How does Mark describe the disciples’ response?
  - b. What played a part in their failure that night?
10. Who were the young men that laid hold of the man in verse 51?

*Bringing it into Focus:*

*At this point, Jesus is utterly alone. Everything prophesied of this moment in time is coming to pass. If you had been a follower of Jesus during this time, would you have stood faithful with Him or would you have fallen to the temptation to fear and forsake?*

*The Contemptuous Trial: Mark 14:53–65*

*From His arrest in Gethsemane, Jesus will now face two trials—one before the Sanhedrin and the other before the Roman Governor. Both trials are complete atrocities. Full of envy, ridicule, and contempt, it is man at his worst!*

11. After reading this passage, try to describe the religious trial Jesus received.

12. With what crime did the leaders charge Jesus?

- a. How serious was this charge?
- b. What difficulty did the Sanhedrin find in trying to convict Jesus?

13. To help solidify this scene, fill in the following blanks from verses 60–62 and then answer the questions that follow:

And the \_\_\_\_\_ stood up in the midst and asked \_\_\_\_\_, saying, “Do You \_\_\_\_\_ nothing? What is it these men \_\_\_\_\_ against You?” But He kept \_\_\_\_\_ and answered \_\_\_\_\_. Again the High Priest asked Him, saying to Him, “Are You the \_\_\_\_\_, the Son of the \_\_\_\_\_?” Jesus said, “\_\_\_\_\_. And you will see the \_\_\_\_\_ sitting at the right hand of the \_\_\_\_\_, and coming with the clouds of \_\_\_\_\_.”

- a. Why did Jesus declare publicly for the first time that He was the Son of God?
- b. How did the members of the Sanhedrin respond to this?

14. Who was the disciple that had the courage to follow at a distance?

15. Taking a Scripture detour, go back to Isaiah 53 and carefully read verses 3–5. Let the power of these words sink into your heart and allow this truth to be personalized...all that the Lord endured, suffered and accomplished *for you*.

### ***The Cowardly Denial: Mark 14:66–72***

*Our last postcard in this chapter is truly a heartbreaking one. Who among us hasn't known—in thought, if not in action—the despair of disclaiming Christ because of a fear of man? Rather than point the finger at Peter, we should be grateful for the life lessons we learn and the road to recovery we see through his failure.*

16. Who accused Peter of being a disciple of Christ?
17. Peter was so strong in his denial that at one point he swore. Comparing this incident with that of verse 47, what accounts for this dramatic change in behavior?
- a. After hearing the rooster crow what did he do?
  - b. Do you think this failure was something Peter dealt with just at this moment or the rest of his life or something else?

*Our Lord's depth of love and compassion towards us is unfathomable. Beloved, if there is something today of which you feel shame or embarrassment, and it has driven up a barrier between you and the Lord, know that He is waiting, longing to forgive you. Come to Him in humility now, and He will not hold you at a distance, but will draw you close. Receive His forgiveness right now!*