

- ➤ In 14:22-24, Jesus instituted what we know as the Lord's Supper, Communion or the Eucharist. In doing this, He gave the disciples a physical practice that could connect them to spiritual realities.
- Everything eaten during a Passover meal already had symbolism, so it would not have been shocking when Jesus said that the bread and wine at the dinner had a deeper meaning. But what was shocking was what they symbolized-His body and blood-and how they represented the new covenant Jesus was ushering in with this meal.
- 1. Read about the old covenants in Deuteronomy 30:15-18, and Jeremiah 31:31-34.
- 2. How is Jesus's covenant different from Old Testament covenants?

# Mark 14:26-42

<sup>26</sup> When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

### **Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial**

<sup>27</sup> "You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "for it is written: "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'

<sup>28</sup> But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." <sup>29</sup> Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not." <sup>30</sup> "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times."

<sup>31</sup> But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same.

#### Gethsemane

<sup>32</sup> They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup> He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup> "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." <sup>35</sup> Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible, the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup> "*Abba*, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." <sup>37</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? <sup>38</sup> Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>39</sup> Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. <sup>40</sup> When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. <sup>41</sup> Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup> Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

➤ Keeping with the Passover tradition, the hymn mentioned in 14:26 was likely taken from the Hallel Psalms (Psalms 113-118). *Hallel* means "praise," so it is highly probable that some of the last words on Jesus's lips before He went to the Mount of Olives were words of praise.

• Look at the words of Psalms 113-118. What common or significant themes do you notice?

- ➤ The disciples had accepted that Jesus was going to be betrayed by one of them, but they had a hard time hearing they would all abandon Him. Jesus was not making an educated guess about what would happen. This had been prophesied. The *scattering* like sheep was a reference to Zechariah 13:7-9. The entire chapter paints a picture of God's people being cleansed from sin in connection with judgment falling on a good shepherd.
- ➤ Peter was convinced of the strength of his resolve to follow Jesus, but Jesus, knowing the truth, shared specific details about how things would play out for Peter. In denial of his denial, Peter doubled down, adding that he would sooner die than desert Jesus. The other disciples followed suit.

➤ As Christ-followers, it can be easy for us to overestimate our ability to avoid sin and underestimate the difficulty of remaining faithful to Jesus when trials and temptations come.

- 1. Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-14. How can the apostle Paul's words to a group of struggling believers keep you sober minded and give you encouragement in this area?
- 2. Look up the word *Gethsemane* (14:32) in a Bible dictionary. What does it mean?
- 3. Review 14:33-36. Where do you see Jesus's humanity and humility highlighted in these verses.
- 4. What can you take away from Jesus's model of persistent prayer and His desire for His disciples to share the same priority?

# Mark 14:43-65

# **Jesus Arrested**

<sup>43</sup> Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders. <sup>44</sup> Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." <sup>45</sup> Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. <sup>46</sup> The men seized Jesus and arrested him. <sup>47</sup> Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. <sup>48</sup> "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? <sup>49</sup> Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." <sup>50</sup> Then everyone deserted him and fled. <sup>51</sup> A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, <sup>52</sup> he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

# **Jesus Before the Sanhedrin**

together. <sup>54</sup> Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire. <sup>55</sup> The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. <sup>56</sup> Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. <sup>57</sup> Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: <sup>58</sup> "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands." <sup>59</sup> Yet even then their testimony did not agree. <sup>60</sup> Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" <sup>61</sup> But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again, the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" <sup>62</sup> "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." <sup>63</sup> The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. <sup>64</sup> "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" They all condemned him as worthy of death. <sup>65</sup> Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophesy!" And the guards took him and beat him.

- ➤ With a false show of respect and friendship-a kiss-Judas identified Jesus to the band of armed temple officials. John 18:3 (NASB) says it was the "Roman cohort," which consisted of anywhere from three hundred to six hundred soldiers. They would not have expected the willing surrender of a legitimate criminal, much less that of an innocent man who knew they wanted him dead.
- ➤ Jesus didn't resist His arrest but pointed out the irony of the secret late-night mission. Though His response was peaceful. One of the disciples opted for a more violent approach. He cut off the ear of the high priest's servant.
- ➤ In Luke's account of this story (Luke 22:49-51), Jesus not only called for a stop of the violence but doubled down and healed the man's ear! If Jesus wanted or needing defending, the Father was more than capable, but the fulfillment of Scripture and the eternal plan of salvation was contingent on His willing submission (Matthew 26:52-54).

- 1. Review 14:57-58. What was the accusation?
- 2. Read John 2:19-21. How is what Jesus said different from what He was accused of?
- 3. What did Jesus mean by His statement?
- > Under the Romans, destruction of a place of worship was punishable by death. If Jesus had been found guilty of that charge, the religious leaders would have been cleared to kill Him. But even in their earnest attempts, they couldn't get the false accusations to line up.
- ➤ In the face of being wrongly accused, Jesus didn't lash back at His attackers or try to make His own case for innocence. He remained silent forgoing even the slightest defense-a perfect picture of Isaiah 53:7.
- 4. When you experience mistreatment or injustice, what is your initial response?
- 5. Read 1 Peter 2:18-24. How does this passage demonstrate the response of Jesus and challenge cultural norms. How are you personally challenged?
- 6. Why did the high priest accuse Jesus of blasphemy for His declaration in 14:62?
- 7. If you know people who reject Jesus as God, how can you try to better understand what led them to their conclusion? What questions might be helpful to ask them?