

## Mark 14:27-42

27 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered.'

28 "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

29 Peter said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be."

30 Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."

31 But he spoke more vehemently, "If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And they all said likewise.

32 Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33 And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. 34 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch."

35 He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. 36 And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."

37 Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? 38 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

39 Again He went away and prayed, and spoke the same words. 40 And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him.

41 Then He came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough! The hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."

1. All 4 gospels detail the events of the Cross, death, and Resurrection

of Jesus

- a. Jesus completed His public ministry
- b. The Passover meal is now over
- c. He washed the disciples feet including Judas
- d. Now heading to the garden of Gethsemane
- e. He knows exactly what will happen, and faces it with absolute calm and certainty
  - i. He understand His mission
  - ii. This is why He came

## **I. Prophecy**

## **II. Prayer**

## **I. Prophecy**

- 1. Then Jesus said to them, All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered.'**
  - a. What does it mean when prophecy is given?
    - i. A prophecy is a Word from God
      1. In this case, a Word telling what will happen in the future
    - ii. God is simply telling us from His perspective
      1. It already occurred

- b. All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written...
- c. Jesus points to the prophecy of **Zechariah 13:7** about striking the Shepherd and the sheep will scatter
- d. **Zech 13:7** Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man *that is* my fellow, says the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered...
  - i. Word fellow is comrade or kindred (like one)
  - ii. Showing Jesus and the Father are the same in essence
- e. What did striking the Shepherd mean?
  - i. It meant that Jesus would be taken and beaten and humiliated before all people
- f. This is not what the disciples were hoping for
  - i. They were used to people calling Jesus Rabbi
  - ii. And people honoring them on His account
- g. An event will occur tonight to all of you that will make you stumble in your faith
- h. This event is orchestrated by God for you**
  - 1. God declared it hundreds of years before it happened
  - ii. Why will the disciples stumble and leave Jesus alone?**
  - iii. Why did God orchestrate this?**

## **1. Because Jesus must travel this journey to the Cross alone**

- a. Salvation is the original plan of God
- b. It will be accomplished by God alone through Christ
  - i. Humanity has no role in the work of salvation
  - ii. All Adam could do to help himself was hide from God
  - iii. God is the one who found the suitable substitute as a sacrifice
  - iv. No one could pay the price with Jesus, He had to do it alone
  - v. We only believe and receive the free gift of salvation

## **2. Because each disciples needed to understand the truth about who they really trusted**

- a. Their own zeal will inevitably fail; always
- b. Peter declares, even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble
- c. I will die with you and never deny you
- d. Peter is displaying a true passion from a human perspective

1. There will be times when I am on fire in my soul and I feel so close and intimate with the Lord

1. I feel like Peter who say's Lord, I'll die for you
  - a. If all others forsake you, I will never do that
  - b. I love you with all my heart

**c. Jesus is teaching them a critical lesson to not rely on their own strength**

- d. We cannot trust in our own strength

**i. Our own strength will fail us**

- e. When the external pressure is greater than the internal faith, your faith fails and you run

- f. Or times when I expect Christ to do a certain thing and He doesn't

1. Or respond a certain way and He doesn't
  - a. "The one that you love is sick"
  - b. This will cause you to be sometimes silently offended and stumble in faith

**2. True strength begins at your breaking point**

3. The breaking point is orchestrated by God
  - a. So Jesus can show us where true strength comes from
  - b. **Jeremiah 17:5** "Thus says the Lord, Cursed *is* the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the Lord
  - c. How easy it is for us to trust in ourselves or other people

4. It's not a question of my salvation
  - a. The disciples were real believers
  - b. They **had to** come to this breaking point to learn this important lesson
  
5. Like the Apostle Paul who was preaching the gospel and planting churches
  - a. **2 Cor 11:23** 5 times I received 39 lashes
  - b. 3 times I was beaten with rods,
  - c. once I was pelted with stones,
  - d. three times I was shipwrecked,
  - e. I spent a night and a day in the open sea
  
  - f. That would make the strongest person want to say "enough Lord", take me home"
  
6. **2 Cor 1:8** We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself.<sup>9</sup> Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. <sup>10</sup> He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us
  - a. Lord, I was expecting a bit more victory and less trouble
    1. "You don't understand now what I'm doing, but you will later"
  
  - b. Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times
  
  - c. "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee"

1. Jesus is not disappointed with the disciples
  2. Although, they forsook Him, He never forsook them
  3. That is good news for the ones who feel the pain of being ashamed to associate with Christ in certain situations
7. Martyn Lloyd-Jones ..., "If you have never been ashamed to openly proclaim the gospel, it is not because you are so courageous, it is because you probably don't understand the gospel." Because if you really proclaim the full gospel, you have to confront the sinner in a way that will cause the sinner to reject what you say and you along with it. And that can drive us to silence (**MacArthur**)
- d. It's an orchestrated plan to bring us to the end our ourselves
  - e. The good news is: It's usually when things are darkest that we are positioned to see the Lord the best
  - f. In the face of imminent danger, we see the Lord displaying
    - ii. An incredible calm
    - iii. A profound grace
      1. Incredible calm knowing what was going to happen and not backing away
      2. A profound grace for the disciples who will all fall away and leave Him alone.
  - g. **When I rise, I will lead you into Galilee**
  - h. The Lord wasn't going to simply meet them there, He would gather them as a shepherd gathers His sheep and lead them there
    - a. **We're not expected to fix ourselves,**

- i. Simply believe and allow Jesus to find and restore us
  - a. He Restores my soul
  
- j. In the Highlands of Scotland, a sheep would often wander off into the rocks and get into places that they couldn't get out of. The grass on these mountains is very sweet and the sheep like it, and they will jump down ten or twelve feet, and then they can't jump back again, and the shepherd hears them bleating in distress. They may be there for days, until they have eaten all the grass. The shepherd will wait until they are so faint they cannot stand, and then they will put a rope around him, and he will go over and pull that sheep up out of the jaws of death.
  - a. Why don't they go down there when the sheep first gets there one may ask.
  - b. They are so very foolish they would dash right over the precipice and be killed if they did!

## II. Prayer

1. This prayer is one of the most sacred passages
  - a. as the soul of our Lord is revealed and His humanity is clearly displayed
  
2. We generally remember the awesome stories about The Lord and His miracles
  
3. Yet scripture displays a powerful truth of his human nature that was just like ours, yet without sin
  
4. Jesus took them to Gethsemane (oil press)
  - a. Jesus would soon be crushed as well**
  
5. Here in the garden of Gethsemane is where we see a closer more intimate portrait of Jesus in His humanity



6. We sometimes forget that Jesus hungered and thirsted
  - a. He was tired and He grieved
  - b. He had compassion on people
    - i. This human element was designed by God
  - c. God is now able to declare, "I know what you are going through"
    - i. I've felt your pain and know your sorrow
  - i. **Is 53:3** He was despised and rejected--a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care
  
7. **Spurgeon:** I am never more vexed with myself than when I have done my very best to extol his dear name. What is it but holding a candle to the sun? Beloved I cannot speak as I would of him; the blaze of the sun blinds me
  
8. There was the physical pain which we look at in horror and say, how could that be
  - a. This is where pressure begins to weigh in on Jesus
  - b. Not due to fear of pain in the flesh
    - i. It was much more intense than that
  - c. A pain worse than being rejected by the very ones He loved
  
  - d. Abba Father, take this cup away from me
    - a. The cup is a symbol used of the judgment of God
  
    - b. Jesus is beginning to feel the pressure of the moment
  
    - i. **There was the deep pain of being separated from the Father**
  
    - ii. **Taking the punishment for every sin that every person ever committed**

## 1. Every thought, word, and action against God or man

9. Jesus requested Peter, James and John to join & watch with Him
10. Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation
  - a. Why Peter, James, John?
  - b. Were they the strongest in the bunch?
    - i. Peter was warned that he'd deny the Lord 3 times
    - ii. James and John were just wanting the top spots next to Jesus
  - c. Why these 3?
    - a. He also took them on the Mt of Transfiguration and raising Jairus's daughter
    - iii. I suggest because they were the ones with the greatest need
      1. On the outside, they seem to be the strongest, most outspoken...
        - a. Internally, they are in need of a more close relationship with Jesus
        - b. If anyone needed to learn what the Lord was about to do during this most trying time, it was these 3
      - c. Our Lord invites them to watch Him closely

## 11. Interesting to note

- a. James was the first Apostle martyred. **He didn't deny Christ**
  - b. John would be exiled to Patmos. **He didn't deny Christ**
  - c. Peter was beaten and imprisoned. **He didn't deny Christ**
    - i. They learned something from this difficult experience
12. Jesus is teaching us the importance of being alert and praying

- d. Not just when things are good or bad, always
  - e. Be alert, your adversary goes about like a roaring lion...
    - iv. Being vigilant and connected to God
13. Sleep seems to be the one thing we battle when we read or pray
- f. It's important to understand this to be aware of this ongoing battle
- 14. If I'm relying on myself, I will not have success**
- g. In humility, request help from God in prayer and reading, then His strength helps me
15. A woman went to Andrew Murray with the problem of feeling she couldn't pray. He said, "Why then, do you not try this? As you go to your inner chamber, however cold and dark your heart may be, do not try in your own might to force yourself into the right attitude. Bow before Him, and tell Him that He sees in what a sad state you are, and that your only hope is in Him. Trust Him, with a childlike trust, to have mercy upon you, and wait upon Him. In such a trust you are in a right relationship to Him. You have nothing -- He has everything."
- a. The woman later told Murray that his advice had helped her. She discovered that her trust in Christ's love for her could help her pray, even when prayer did not come easily.
16. Watch, be awake and pray that you don't enter into temptation
- 17. Earnest prayer (3 times)**
- a. "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will"
18. One main thing that we can learn
- a. We can approach God as our Father
    - i. One who is tender and kind
    - ii. One who is understanding and full of mercy
19. Hebrews describes this moment

- a. **Heb 5:7** when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, <sup>8</sup> though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered
    - i. This was a cry of a Son to His Father,
    - ii. A petition to God
    - iii. A humble submission to the Father's perfect will
20. **If it is possible, let this cup pass from me**
21. He is probably saying is there any other way? Does it have to be this? He's not asking to avoid the redemptive work. He's just asking if there's another way to accomplish it... (**MacArthur**)
22. There was no other way
- a. Jesus had to go to the cross and carry every sin of every sinner
    - i. be separated from the father and receive the full judgment of all sin
  - b. He prayed and there were drops of blood from his brow
    - i. The full fury of God's wrath and separation almost killed Him
    - ii. The anguish of His soul was incredibly intense
  - c. **"Yet, not my will, but yours be done"**
    - i. Perfect surrender to the Father's divine plan
    - ii. What a great example for us when we are in a difficult place
      - 1. Not my will, but yours be done

**Application: What can we learn here from this section?**

- 1. During Jesus' first temptation, He quotes the scripture and fights with the Word of God

2. In this second temptation, He uses prayer to bear His soul and submit to the Father's will

- a. Prayer is as much protection as it is petition**

3. If we want to be successful in our walk
  - a. Word of God
  - b. Prayer
    - i. Pray through until you breakthrough