

Mark 14: 43-52

And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead *Him* away safely."

⁴⁵ As soon as he had come, immediately he went up to Him and said to Him, "Rabbi, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

⁴⁶ Then they laid their hands on Him and took Him. ⁴⁷ And one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

⁴⁸ Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? ⁴⁹ I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled."

⁵⁰ Then they all forsook Him and fled.

⁵¹ Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around *his* naked *body*. And the young men laid hold of him, ⁵² and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.

- A. It's early Friday morning
- B. Passover meal is finished
- C. Jesus prays for hours in the garden
 - a. We are now hours away from the Cross

- I. Imposter
- II. Impulsive
- III. Incognito

1) **The Imposter** - Judas

- a. What do we know about Judas?
 - i. He was handpicked by the Lord
 - ii. He walked as a follower for about 3 years

- iii. He handled the money for them (and stole it)
- iv. Judas had a private meeting with the Sanhedrin
 - v. He promised to deliver Jesus to them
 - vi. They promised him 30 pieces of silver
- vii. With the support of the Religious rulers and the Roman authority, Judas brings a large group of men with swords, clubs and lanterns
 - 1. Temple guards carry the clubs
 - 2. Romans bring the swords
- b. Since God knows everything, how is it that Jesus chose Judas?
 - i. Jesus spent the entire night in prayer before selecting the 12
 - ii. Then I realized, I was asking the wrong question
 - 1. How could Jesus have chosen any of them?
 - a. They were all bad
 - b. All sinners
 - c. All needed a savior
 - iii. Jesus extends out the invitation to 12 men full of potential
 - 1. Not based on who they are today or what they've done in the past
 - 2. He selects them based on the grand plan that God has for each of them
 - 3. **1 Tim 2:4** who desires **all men** to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
 - a. God didn't create people for hell

b. Hell was created for the devil and his angels
(**Matthew 25:41**)

4. This grand plan is for each of them to know Christ & the power of His resurrection like the Apostle Paul (who didn't see Jesus in the flesh)

a. Paul lived by a foundational faith in Jesus that changed history forever

5. We're all bad and we all have the potential to be Christ like

a. The difference is our **choice** and our **faith**

c. Why is Judas called imposter then?

i. Because he knew what Jesus was teaching and he pretended to be along for the ride

ii. He who wants to follow me must deny himself and take up his cross daily

1. This was a call to death

2. Perhaps Judas thought he could outsmart everyone and make money easily by stealing

3. Perhaps he really thought he could persuade Jesus into becoming Israel's king and overthrow Rome

4. Regardless of his reason, following Jesus means laying down my agenda and picking up the Cross daily and following Him wherever He goes

d. "Whomever I kiss, this is the one, seize Him"

i. Jesus had to be identified with a sign

ii. He was not distinct based on His exterior

- iii. No angels flying around Him or glowing light shining from heaven
- iv. He had a simple form and humbled Himself and had to be identified by a kiss
- v. Typically, a person would kiss the one he wanted to honor on the feet, the back of the hand, on the hem of his garment, or on the palm of the hand. Judas chose to embrace Jesus and kiss Him on His cheek, this kind of kiss showed the deepest love and affection. It was usually reserved for those with whom the person had a close, intimate relationship (**Carr**)

e. Judas kept kissing him

- i. Possibly to try and distract Him from doing a miracle

f. Jesus said to him, **Friend, why have you come?**

- i. He was confidently confronting Judas in love
- ii. Real love communicates in truth
- iii. Giving Judas one final chance to humble himself before God and repent.
- iv. One final chance to realize there was nowhere to run from God

g. Jesus is not angry with Judas, but grieved over Judas

- i. God is not angry with us when we fail
- ii. He grieves over us when we choose to stay down

h. Judas my friend, why have you come?

- i. Can you feel His heavy heart?

- ii. As if to say, "Why Judas, why are you bent on this road?"
- iii. I won't force you to change your mind, but I'll speak a kind word to encourage you to turn away from this destructive path
- iv. But Judas' moment was slipping away
- v. [Judas]... heard the truth. He saw the truth. He even acknowledged the truth, Matt. 27:4. Yet, Judas died and went to Hell because he failed to believe the truth. Judas literally kissed the gates of Heaven and died and went to Hell (**Carr**)
- vi. Each person has a window of opportunity to make a decision
 - 1. that window will close

2) **The Impulsive** - Peter

- a. 600-1000 men are now at the garden to capture Jesus
 - i. They wouldn't be able to touch Him if it wasn't part of Gods divine plan to submit to this difficult road
- b. As He knelt before the Father, He could stand before any man
- c. **Who are you seeking? I AM**
- d. Peter may have received some courage after watching Jesus make everyone fall back with one word
- e. It may be a surge of emotion seeing the Power of God over the enemy

- i. Peter should not be moved with just emotion
- f. Why then did Peter strike the servants ear off?
 - i. Perhaps because he had something to prove about his loyalty to Jesus
 - 1. I'll go to prison and die with you...
 - 2. Anytime I try and prove my spirituality to others, my focus is wrong and others get hurt in the process

 - 3. How many people go around hurting others using bible verses?
 - a. They use the sword of the Spirit to prove a point and people get hurt
 - ii. Perhaps he felt Jesus needed defending
 - 1. Our God does not need us to defend Him

 - 2. The scriptures do not need defending

 - 3. **Martin Luther:** The Bible is like a lion; it does not need to be defended; just let it loose and it will defend itself
 - a. My role is to simply testify to the good He's done in my life
- g. We cannot fight spiritual battles with natural weapons (**Wiersbe**)
- h. **Those who use the sword will die by the sword**
- i. We fight the good fight of faith on our knees before God in prayer
- j. We fight before the actual fight really happens
 - i. *National Geographic* ran an article about the Alaskan bull moose. The males of the species battle for dominance during the fall breeding season, literally going head-to-head

with antlers crunching together as they collide. Often the antlers, their only weapon are broken. That ensures defeat. The heftiest moose, with the largest and strongest antlers, triumphs. Therefore, the battle fought in the fall is really won during the summer, when the moose eat continually. The one that consumes the best diet for growing antlers and gaining weight will be the heavyweight in the fight. Those that eat inadequately sport weaker antlers and less bulk. There is a lesson here for us. Spiritual battles await. Satan will choose a season to attack. Will we be victorious, or will we fall? Much depends on what we do now--before the wars begin. The bull-moose principle: Enduring faith, strength, and wisdom for trials are best developed before they're needed.

- k. Mary Queen of Scots reportedly said, "I fear the prayers of John Knox more than all the assembled armies of Europe
 - i. Although Peter cut off the man's ear, Jesus brought healing
 - ii. **Luke 22:51** Permit even this...(allow me to at least do this)
 - 1. Our Lord's heart is to bring healing
 - 2. He is persecuted and treated like a criminal and His heart is to bring healing
 - 3. He was not the cause of pain
 - 4. People cause pain, the enemy causes pain, this fallen world brings pain
 - 5. Jesus brings the healing**
 - iii. Jesus healed, heals and continues to bring healing to those who are hurt
 - iv. Healing for those who are for Him and healing for those against Him

v. Malchus = king

1. Ironic how one named king is a slave
2. We were all born with a destiny to be kings and priests
3. our distance from God will always cause us to be slaves

vi. If Jesus had not healed Malchus, there would have been 4 crosses at Calvary

3) **The Incognito**

- a. Who was this person?
- b. Since the gospel of Mark is the only one of the four gospels that records this event, the author could well have been writing about himself. If the Upper Room was in the home of Mark, then perhaps Judas led the soldiers there first. Mark may have hastily put on the outer garment and followed the mob to the garden. The soldiers may have even tried to arrest him, so he fled (**Wiersbe**)
- c. "The modest spirit of Mark seemed to say, 'Friend Peter, while the Holy Ghost moves me to, tell thy fault, and let it stand on record, he also constrains me to write my own as a sort of preface to it, for I, too, in my mad, hare-brained folly, would have run, unclothed as I was, upon the guard to rescue my Lord and Master; yet, at the first sight, of the rough legionaries, at the first gleam of their swords, away I fled, timid, faint-hearted, and afraid that I should be too roughly handled.'" (**Spurgeon**)
- d. What we can gather from this is that fear was dominant in this setting
 - i. All of the disciples and followers of Jesus fled
- e. **When the external fear is greater than the internal faith, you will run**

- i. It's the natural fight or flight of survival
 - ii. Peter initially fought
 - iii. As things got challenging, he fled; They all did
 - iv. The only one who was absolutely in control and calm was Jesus**
- f. One may ask, how can they feel such fear if Jesus was physically with them?
- i. Jesus was with them when the storm broke out, and they feared greatly
 - ii. Here, Jesus is with them and they feared greatly
 - iii. Won't the physical presence of Jesus take away our fears?
 - 1. Seems not
 - iv. What overcomes fear is a **secure faith** that withstands the onslaught of danger
 - v. 3 Hebrew men didn't see anything in the natural to protect them from the imminent danger
 - 1. They simply chose to believe in their God
 - 2. It wasn't just at that moment that they decided to believe
 - a. Faith is a daily journey and that faith grows over time and through trials
 - vi. **Daniel 3:16** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If that *is the case*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver *us* from your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."
 - 1. We don't need anything physical to help our faith
 - a. We need to be anchored in the Word of God

b. **Rom 10:17** So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God

g. We learn these 3 things from Judas, Peter and Mark

- i. **Judas** - Be real, be sincere, don't do anything in the dark shadows, live in the light
 1. **Surrender all**
 2. **Live in absolute surrender to Jesus**
 3. **He see's all and knows all**
- ii. **Peter** - Don't rely on your emotions, you cannot fight spiritual battles with natural weapons
 1. **Put your full faith in Christ and on Him alone**
- iii. **Mark** - Fear in overcome by a daily dose of faith
 1. **Faith is like a muscle that grows with time and use**