

Daily Bible Study

“God Under Arrest”

Mark 14:43-52

January 13 –19, 2013

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY –We continue this week with a study of **Mark 14:42-52** where we find “**God Under Arrest**”. We often hear that “sin is sin” and there is not one sin “worse” than another. This is indeed true in that any sin (thought or deed, sins of commission or omission) is violating God’s holy and perfect standard, makes and individual guilty before Him (**Romans 3:23, 6:23, James 2:10**). Therefore any sin is against God worthy and deserving of His wrath and punishment. With that said, Jesus Himself spoke of being guilty of “*a greater sin*” in **John 19:11**. Jesus in **John 19** is saying that sinning against God with greater light and knowledge of Him and His Word is to commit *a greater sin* than sinning with less understanding and less opportunity. All sin, committed in ignorance or not deserves eternal punishment but willfully sinning against understanding you’ve been given is to bring a severe punishment (**Luke 12:47-48**). Judas had much light and opportunity to know God and therefore the act we find in our text for this week is one of the most wicked and purposeful sins against God to ever be committed. Betraying Jesus (God in the flesh), then arresting Him in order to have Him killed is evil sin. To rest the point, it was Jesus who said, “*It would have been better if he had not been born*”; what a frightening and horrifying thought. But in God’s providence, he was born and did this horrific deed. We find here in Mark’s record some interesting details concerning both that night long ago and also some details which point to our condition before God this very day before us now. Let’s look and learn what the Holy Spirit is saying in **Mark 4:43-52**: “*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. Now His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead Him away safely.” As soon as he had come, immediately he went up to Him and said to Him, “Rabbi, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. Then they laid their hands on Him and took Him. And one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” Then they all forsook Him and fled. Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around his naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.*”

Suggestion for Prayer: God, show me my sin and Your grace & glory as I study this Scripture.

TUESDAY – **Mark 4:43-45**: “*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. Now His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead Him away safely.” As soon as he had come, immediately he went up to Him and said to Him, “Rabbi, Rabbi!” and kissed Him.*” Remember as we begin that it is Jesus who is truly in control here as this is not taking Him by surprise at all. He has just informed the sleeping disciples that His *betrayer was at hand*. Mark is emphasizing for us the darkness of this deed as he says, “*Judas, one of the twelve...*” We are reminded of all the privileges that had been his in the years he had spent in Jesus’ presence. The other disciples had even trusted him so much that he was the treasurer of this group. Now he reveals he is truly a child of darkness as he leads this *great multitude with swords and clubs* as well as *torches* and *lanterns* (**John 18:3**) into this dark night to arrest *the light of the world* (**John 8:12**). We see everything about this deed is consistent with the character of sin; dark, deceptive, hypocritical, and damning as for thirty pieces of silver and a momentary pleasure of power and greed Judas delivers over the greatest and purest giver and lover of mankind to ever walk this earth; the *one Mediator between God and man* (**1 Timothy 2:5**), who was both God and man, the Lord Jesus Christ. We see also the pattern and planning of sins awful character as Judas had arraigned a signal by which he would point out Jesus to the soldiers in this dark night. *Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead Him away safely.* It is not the safety of Jesus to which Judas speaks or was concerned but instead, because he knew the very character of our perfect Lord Jesus, he is telling the soldiers that Jesus would go with them and they need not fear harm to themselves. It’s almost a bit humorous to think; Judas was right about the danger except he forgot there were saved sinners like Peter present there as well; we will see they don’t always respond like their Lord. Then Judas comes up to Jesus and twice says His name before kissing Him with what has been termed “the kiss of death” through the centuries.

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me truly understand the great privilege You have given to me of being able to know You, read Your Word, gather to Worship and pray to You with your people. Save and keep me from ever falling away from salvation through Jesus. May I walk with Jesus, the light of the world and keep my steps safe, holy and out of the darkness of sin.

WEDNESDAY – **Mark 14:45**: “*As soon as he had come, immediately he went up to Him and said to Him, “Rabbi, Rabbi!” and kissed Him.*” This large group, consisting of Judas, Malchus (the high priests’ servant **Mark 14:47**), apparently Levite’s (**Mark 14:49**), and a detachment (*cohort*- **John 18:3**) of soldiers now approach Jesus. This well-equipped number, armed and prepared, are here for “The Prince of Peace”. A full Roman *cohort* of soldiers is 600 men and although the word is used when speaking of a portion and not the full number, nevertheless, full or partial *cohort*, this is a large group. I would point out to you that although this crowd was massive it came down to a face to face encounter; Jesus and Judas (*he went up to Him*).

Make no mistake about it, every man will have a personal and face to face encounter with The Lord of Glory, The man appointed judge of all the earth as we will each stand before Him and no one can “get lost in the crowd” (**2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 14:12**). Many say that a kiss was the customary way of greeting in that culture, especially of a Rabbi, but in all parts of the world there is no doubt that a kiss is the symbol of friendship and affection. In this case however we know it was used as the signal for the arresting of Jesus. He twice says Jesus’ name quite possibly a foreshadow of **Matthew 7:22-23** when many people who think they know Jesus as Savior will stand before Him in judgment and do likewise. “*Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’*” The Hebraic custom of saying a person’s name twice is found only about 15 times in Sacred Scripture yet at very significant times. On Mount Moriah to Abraham, Abraham! (**Genesis 22**), God speaking to Jacob, Jacob! In **Genesis 46**, Moses, Moses! at the burning bush (**Exodus 3:4**), Samuel, Samuel! in the Temple (**1 Samuel 3:10**), and Davids cry of lament, Absalom, O Absalom! My son, my son! in **2 Samuel 19:4**. We see more of the same in the New Testament: Martha, Martha (**Luke 10:41**), Simon, Simon! (**Luke 22:31-32**), Jesus words of lament, Jerusalem, Jerusalem! in **Luke 13:34**, Saul, Saul... on the road to Damascus (**Acts 9:4**) and finally, “My God, My God, Why have You forsaken Me” (**Mark 15:34**). In all these situations we see a profound, deep sense of personal affection. It is this intimate type of conversation that many people who profess to be Christians will speak to Jesus as the cry out, “Lord, Lord...” They will know His name and His character BUT they do not really know Him because as Jesus says, they don’t obey Him but rather they work lawlessness; “*I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!*”

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, Son & Holy Spirit, help me see the personal nature of Your relationship with me as Your child. May I examine my heart & soul to be sure that I know You as Savior and Lord. Help me repent and believe as I bow before You and obey You showing by my works of obedience that I do understand You are Lord and I am the unworthy saved sinner.

THURSDAY – **Mark 14:46-49**: “*Then they laid their hands on Him and took Him. And one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.’*” After the horrific repeated greeting and kiss we are given the very incredible and interesting response of Jesus by the other gospel writers. Matthew has Jesus saying, “Friend, why have you come?” (**Matthew 26:50**), and Luke has the statement from Christ, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?” (**Luke 22:48**). As Hendrickson comments, “It is clear that even at this very late moment Jesus was earnestly warning Judas. For his everlasting perdition he had only himself to blame!” We see the reaction

of a saved sinner now as, *one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear*. We know this man who reacts in aggressive defense is Peter from **John 18:10**. It is also interesting that in Mark’s record (a record tradition tells us was written with the apostolic authority of Peter’s eyewitness accounts to Mark) leaves out the rebuke of Jesus to Peter (**Matthew 26:52**) and the wonderful healing and restoration of Malchus’ ear by Christ, the very man he is there to arrest (**Luke 22:51**). As a footnote; It is in **Matthew 26:53** that Jesus reminds Peter He could have the Father send Him 12 legions of angels to deliver Him from this; that’s right, 72,000 angels versus the 600 soldier cohort (1/10th of a legion). I’d say bet on Jesus winning. Jesus gave Himself to this plan Beloved, “*Know man takes it (My life), but I lay it down of Myself*” is how He said it in **John 10:18**. Jesus then speaks to the sneaky nature of sin and its outworking as well as the fulfillment of the Scripture in the entire way this whole account is unfolding. These men here to arrest Jesus could have done it *daily* as Jesus *was with them in the temple teaching*, but they *did not seize* Him then rather they came in the cover of darkness and secrecy. But like the prophets foretold, this horrible event and its detailed circumstances went down exactly as God had planned (**Zechariah 11:12, Zechariah 13**, and **Isaiah 53**).

*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thanks for Your eternal decree of salvation for sinners reflected in the prophets and carried out in time with precise detail. Thank You for Your love, mercy and grace expressed toward us Your undeserving people. Remind me of the truth of **John 19:11**; You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.*

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – **Mark 14:50-52**: “*Then they all forsook Him and fled. Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around his naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.*” As the text continues so does the fulfillment of Scripture including Jesus’ words in **verse 27** as the disciples all *forsook Him and fled*. Peter had argued otherwise but here we see the weakness of fallen man and the power of sin. All the disciples by their actions heap shame upon themselves. We are also given a look at the hatred of Satan and sin against Jesus Christ and truth as it appears the disciples and even the *young man* following would have been arrested too had they stuck around. This is not an excuse for their fleeing but a reminder of the power and cruelty of sin. It is both possible and probable that the *young man* here is Mark himself and this is the way he introduces himself to the story. Regardless, the point I want to leave us with is that this man spun away from the grasp of the captors and was left naked, shameful. He is naked for he is guilty and we all as sinners stand naked, guilty and shamed before a Holy God. Only the covering God has graciously provided in Christ is able to remedy the problem (**Isaiah 61:10**).

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for covering my sin & shame with the perfect righteousness of Your Son Jesus. Help me live obediently through the power of the Holy Spirit.