

Sword

Mark 14

March 25, 2018

DAY 1: A contrast of “power” and “surrender”

1. This week we’ll look at the arrest of Jesus, with all of its horrors.

Mark 14:43 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.

⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."

⁴⁵ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him.

⁴⁶ The men seized Jesus and arrested him.

⁴⁷ Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁴⁸ "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?"

⁴⁹ Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." ⁵⁰ Then everyone deserted him and fled.

⁵¹ A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, ⁵² he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

2. What do you notice about the “crowd,” (v. 43)

3. What do you notice about Judas?

4. What do you notice about Peter? (Mark 14:47)

5. What do you notice about the rest of the disciples?

5. What strikes you about Jesus’ response?

6. What strikes you most from this passage?

DAY 2: Kingdom of heaven vs. kingdom of this world

1. How often does Jesus talk about the “kingdom of heaven” or the “kingdom of God?” He contrasts this with the “kingdom of this world.”
2. Each kingdom has a world view, a value system of what’s most important, and how things are done.
3. Think about what happens when an NFL team hires a new head coach, or a business hires a new CEO. The team or the company is likely to undergo a dynamic change. Sometimes, the things that used to have top priority now become one of many values. Conversely, what used to be a “nicety” now becomes one of our top priorities.
4. The ways and values of the “kingdom of this world” are completely upside down from the “kingdom of God.”

Luke 6:20 Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²² Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

²³ "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.

5. “Blessed” means “well-being.” To be blessed is more than outward blessings. It is that sense of well-being” we all long for in our hearts.
6. What struck you most from Jesus’ ways of being blessed?

Luke 6:24 "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.

7. This is the most stunning of reversals. What the follower of Christ holds as dearest, the world looks at as pathetic. Look at the list of what the world most values: rich, well fed, popularity, success, flattery, acclaim, etc.

8. “Woe” relates to our worst fears. It is “woe” because the values of “this world” are leading us to some aspect of misery, though we can’t yet see it coming.

9. What struck you from the values of the “woes?”

DAY 3: The kingdom of heaven: Surrender and other-centered

1. What does God value? God values humility, weakness, the value of suffering, and what rejection for Him represents.

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2. This is where “the kiss of death” entered our vocabulary. The movie, Fatal Attraction, with Michael Douglas carried this theme. What “should have been” a “love story” turned out to be a story of revenge and murder.

3. This situation is a “crazy” human nature aspect to it. Just why would Judas Iscariot decide to make a kiss on the cheek the sign of identity? Why wouldn’t he just walk into the garden, and just point out Jesus to the guards?

4. The awful pain of betrayal is sometimes experienced in an affair, or a divorce, or in an extended family member, or at work. Have you experienced a betrayal you never saw coming? How would you describe your experience of betrayal?

5. Jesus’ experience of betrayal was prophesied hundreds years before this event.

Psalms 55:12 If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were raising himself against me, I could hide from him.

¹³ But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend,

¹⁴ with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship as we walked with the throng at the house of God.

6. What are some of the ways Jesus “could have” responded to Judas Iscariot? What are ways you would have been tempted to respond?

7. Mark doesn’t record Jesus’ immediate response, but Matthew does.

Matthew 26:50 Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for." Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.

8. “Friend!” Even at this last of moments for Judas, Jesus is still reaching out to him.

9. It may be that at this time in our nation’s history we will call it the age of rage. Road rage. Now, with social media, rage is “all the rage.” Because you are offended by someone you are “entitled” to be “outraged” and vent your rage. In some circles you are applauded for your rage. You may be called “courageous.”

Proverbs 29:11 A fool gives full vent to his anger but a wise man keeps himself under control.

DAY 4: The kingdom of this world: “Control” and “power”

1. Why would soldiers, armed with swords, and some with clubs be needed in arresting Jesus? What did they expect would happen?

2. Human nature “naturally” gravitates to “control” and “power.”

Mark 14:47 Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

3. Of course, this is Peter. Peter is known for being impulsive. Act first, speak first, think later. Before we come down too hard on Peter, have you “chopped” any ears off lately? Can you think of a time when you responded with some type of what you thought “justified” anger only to discover later, to your horror, that you had acted impetuously, rashly, harshly, believing you were standing up for what was right, only to realize, too late, that you were completely in the wrong?

Matthew 26:52 "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

4. Sometimes you have those days where “it’s one thing after another.” The hammer strikes once. The hammer strikes twice. The hammer strikes thrice. The hammer strikes a fourth, a fifth, and a sixth time. This moment in time is “the perfect storm.” Notice how Jesus responds:

Mark 14:48 "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?"

5. The Greek word “rebellion” is what we would call a revolution. The overthrow of a government

6. This is a rhetorical question. The answer is, “Of course I have not come to lead a rebellion to overthrow the government. I did not come to incite a riot, to bring armed conflict to the city.

Mark 14:49a Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me.

7. Judas got it half right. Jesus was leading a rebellion, but not anything remote to the kind of rebellion Judas imagined, or anyone else imagined! It was not a rebellion that involved the use of force or power. His was a revolution whose “weapons” were service in the face of power, humility in the face of pride, love in the face of hate.

Mark 14:49a Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me.

8. This section of scripture illustrates the great contrast between the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of this world.

DAY 5: The kingdom of heaven: Surrender, no matter what

Mark 4:49b But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." ⁵⁰ Then everyone deserted him and fled.

⁵¹ A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, ⁵² he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

1. At the key moment, the other ten disciples panic and run to save their own lives. One of the men was so intent on his getaway that when an armed guard grabbed his tunic, the young man ran off, naked, the guard holding on to the young man's clothing. It is a colossal failure for the disciples.

2. What is happening? The world's way of power is on display. One is wielding a sword, while many carry one. One side of the equation is in power and the other side of the equation is being dispersed by power. That is, all except one.

3. Jesus stands without a sword. He has no club. Power to overcome the guards is at His disposal. He does not call upon that power. His power is a different kind of power. He doesn't demand obedience; He "compels" obedience.

4. Below is list of how Jesus responded to betrayal, abandonment, and the entrance into suffering:

- Walked straight into the teeth of evil to fulfill His Father's mission.
- He was betrayed in the cruelest of ways, yet his response was to reach out, still.
- He gave Himself over to the soldiers and mob.
- He turned down powerful resources that were at His disposal.
- He remained dependent on God, in spite of His circumstances.
- He was abandoned by all His "trusted" friends.

5. This episode has a parallel in Genesis 3, in another garden. Adam and Eve were confronted with Satan's subtle and dastardly power of influence. They failed. Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden.

6. An angel was placed guard over Eden. No one was allowed to enter without first passing through the angel with the sword of divine judgment.

7. Jesus will walk under that sword of divine judgment, not because He deserves divine judgment. He will walk under that sword of divine judgment because He loves us too much to allow us to do so.

8. There are two kingdoms in this world. Either you are living for one, the kingdom of this world" or you are living for the "kingdom of God." As Jesus said, "You cannot serve two kingdoms."