

Betrayed and Arrested



SABBATH—JUNE 4

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Mark 14:1-51.

MEMORY VERSE: “ ‘Abba,’ he [Jesus] said, ‘everything is possible for you. Take this cup of suffering away from me. But let what you want be done, not what I want.’ Abba means Father” (Mark 14:36, NIV).

THE CLIMAX (GREAT CLOSING) OF JESUS' LIFE. Our last three lessons in Mark's story of Jesus focus on the 72 hours that cover the crisis point in Jesus' life.

These three lessons, are locked together. Each lesson includes events¹ and decisions that greatly influence Jesus' life.

In this week's lesson, we see Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. He is struggling with the pain and suffering of becoming the Sin Bearer for the world. If He turns back, we are eternally (forever) lost. Next week, we will follow Him to the Cross. There Satan throws all his weapons upon Jesus. Satan will try his best to defeat Jesus. If Satan succeeds, we are eternally lost. In the final lesson, we see Jesus dead and lying in a stone-cold tomb. If His body continues to lie there, His life and teaching, His suffering and death will have been for nothing. And we are eternally lost. The risks are high.

A LOOK AT THIS WEEK'S LESSON: How did Judas defend his betrayal of Jesus? Why did Jesus say He would not drink of the fruit of the vine (“wine,” grape juice) again until we are in the kingdom of God with Him? Why did Peter deny Jesus after saying he would never deny Him? What does it mean to call God “Abba” (Father)? Why did the disciples all fail Jesus in His closing hour?

*Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, June 11.

¹events—things that happen.

SUNDAY—JUNE 5
THE BETRAYAL PLAN
 (Mark 14:1-11).

Read Mark 14:3-10 and John 12:1-8. Why did Judas betray Jesus after what happened in these verses?



“Why waste this perfume?”
 (Mark 14:4, NIV).

Judas’ story shows how easily a person can think that his or her actions are right.

What problem made some people upset in this story? Did they have a good point? Explain your answer.

In Mark’s story, Judas and several other disciples were upset about the waste of money. How did

the complaints of others help Judas believe he had a good reason for complaining about the waste of money?

It is interesting how Mark 14 begins. The religious leaders are looking for a way to put Jesus to death. Then Mark writes about this woman. Afterward, Jesus rebuked (scolded) those disciples who “became angry” (NIV) because of what she had done. Next, Judas goes to the leaders and gives them what they were looking for. (Also read Luke 22:1-4.) With the Holy Spirit’s leading, Mark clearly wanted to show us how this woman’s action pushed Judas to betray Jesus. The issue of money was important both at Simon’s house and with Judas and the religious leaders. That should tell us something about how the devil uses our weak points to gain control of our minds.

We are shocked at Judas. But none of us are safe from being swept away by the sins we hold dear. What was the only thing that could have saved Judas, and that can save us? Mark 8:34. How do we make this real in our lives?

MONDAY—JUNE 6
THE LAST SUPPER
 (Mark 14:12-26).

Jesus’ last meal with His disciples has been celebrated by Christians from the church’s beginning. About

twenty years after Jesus ate with His disciples on that Thursday night, Jesus' followers in Corinth met to celebrate the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:17-22). Paul wrote to them to correct what was wrong about the way they celebrated this meal. Today, almost all Christian denominations² observe the Lord's Supper. But how they observe it may be different from one denomination to another.

What is Jesus saying in Mark 14:24, 25? How is He referring to His Second Coming? Why would He be talking about His Second Coming in connection with His death?

Study what Jesus is saying to His disciples and to us, too. His words show the closeness He feels with people who will be with Him in God's kingdom. He is not going to drink of the fruit of the vine ("wine"; grape juice) until God's kingdom has come (Luke 22:18). This is when all of us who are saved by Jesus' blood will be with Him. "Here is what I [Jesus] tell you. From now on, I won't [will not] drink wine with you again until the day I drink it with you in my Father's kingdom" (Matthew 26:29, NIV). Jesus means He will not drink grape juice again until we are there to drink it with Him. Again, we have to remember who is speaking to us (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16, 17;

Hebrews 1:2). Jesus is the Son of God. But He feels so close to us! He loves us so much!



Jesus will wait to drink again the symbol of His blood until we are in heaven with Him.

So here Jesus puts His blood at the center of everything. It is only because of His blood that we can be with Him in God's kingdom. It is only because of His blood that we can drink with Him the fruit of the vine. The fruit of the vine is a symbol. Any church that does not teach the importance of Jesus' blood to our salvation is not good enough!

Jesus will not drink wine until we are with Him in the kingdom. What kind of comfort and hope does that give you? How can this wonderful example of God's love help you through a present discouragement?

²denominations—different churches, such as the Lutheran Church, the Baptist Church, and the Catholic Church.

TUESDAY—JUNE 7
PETER'S FAILURE
(Mark 14:27-31, 66-72).

Jesus prophesied that Judas would betray Him (Mark 14:21). He also prophesied that Peter would deny Him (Mark 14:30). But God did not plan for Judas and Peter to fail. To God, all things past, present, and future are known. He sees what will happen. But that does not prevent people from making their own choices. Jesus said what He said only because He knew what Peter and Judas would do. If Peter and Judas would not have made these choices, Jesus would not have made these prophecies.

How far did Peter feel ready to go in following Jesus? Mark 14:27-31. Do you think he meant what he said? Explain your answer.

We are all like Peter! How quickly we say “Yes!” to Jesus. “All the others may turn away. But I will not” (Mark 14:29, NIV). And Peter meant what he said. So do we, when we make promises to God. But often we find ourselves with Peter—broken, weeping, having failed Jesus. We each have to learn the lesson Peter learned: to promise God something does not guarantee victory. We need to learn to look away from our own strength. We need to depend fully on Jesus for victory. Suppose Peter had

been quicker to speak of Jesus than of himself. Peter’s story might have been quite different.

Notice, too, that Peter was not the only disciple who claimed he would not deny Jesus (Mark 14:31). All the disciples made the same promise. But when things really got difficult, “everyone left him [Jesus] and ran away” (Mark 14:50, NIV). The focus in Mark 14 is on Peter. But the other disciples also had a lot to learn about what it meant to follow Jesus.

What words might Peter have said, or prayed, that could have shown an attitude³ that might have saved him from this terrible failure? Use the following verses to help you put together such words: Psalm 56:1-3; Psalm 119:28; Luke 18:13; 2 Corinthians 12:9, 10; Philipians 4:13. How might the words



“I am a sinner! Have mercy on me!”

³attitude—how you think and feel about something; the thoughts, feelings, and opinions of a person or group of people.

you chose make you stronger for whatever temptations and challenges you face?

WEDNESDAY—JUNE 8

ABBA (FATHER)! (Mark 14:32-42).

The Garden of Gethsemane was a favorite place for Jesus. He had often retreated (gone) there to find relaxation and a break away from the crowds. But this night, Gethsemane became a place of pain and suffering.

Think about Jesus in Gethsemane. Read and reread it in the Gospel stories: Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:40-53; John 18:1-12. In His prayer to the Father, Jesus used a word of love—“Abba.” Abba suggests deep love. We could translate it as “Daddy.” Jesus experienced a sense of separation between Himself and His Father. But Jesus still trusted in the Father’s love. So Jesus called His Father, Abba. Jesus had a very deep faith, even during great depression.

Ellen White describes what Jesus was to face on the cross: “Jesus now found Himself in a different situation from what He had been in before. . . . In the past, He had been an intercessor⁴ for others. But now He wished for an intercessor for Himself.

“Jesus felt His unity with the Father was broken. He feared that in His human nature He would be unable to stand the great struggle with Satan

. . . with the struggle before Him, Jesus’ soul did not want to experience separation from God. Satan told Him that if He became the ransom⁵ for a sinful world, the separation would be forever. Jesus would belong to Satan’s kingdom, and would never again be one with God.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 686, 687. But even with this thought of separation, Jesus could still cry out “Abba!”



“‘Abba,’ he said, ‘everything is possible with you’ ” (Mark 14:36, NIV).

Paul tells us we are disciples of Jesus who have been adopted into the family of God. We, too, cry “Abba!” to our heavenly Father. Compare⁶ Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6. We too, can call God, Abba!

⁴intercessor—a go-between; a helper.

⁵ransom—the price paid for a person’s freedom. Jesus’ death paid a ransom for all sinners, so that they might be free from sin and guilt.

⁶compare—show how things are the same.

Suppose someone were to ask you how they could develop the kind of relationship with God described in today's lesson. What would you say?

THURSDAY—JUNE 9

JESUS ARRESTED

(Mark 14:43-52).

In Gethsemane, Jesus struggled with the future that the plan of salvation would require of Him. He accepted that future.

What was very hateful about how Judas betrayed his Master? Mark 14:44-46.

The enemies of Jesus wanted to be sure they would get Jesus. They came after Him in the middle of the night, when the common people would not be there to stop them. But they were concerned that the darkness might give Jesus an opportunity to escape. Once again, Judas helped them. At a given signal, Judas went ahead of the mob and kissed Jesus. The Greek language, in which Mark 14:45 is written, shows that Judas did not just give Jesus a hug, but kissed Him several times. In this way, Jesus' enemies could move quickly to arrest Him.

But Judas and the mob did not need to worry about Jesus trying to escape. Jesus knew this moment would happen. He had prepared for

this moment. He had made His decision during His struggle in earnest prayer to His Father. Jesus faced His enemies. He did not try to escape or to fight against arrest.

What did the other disciples do when the mob arrested Jesus? Mark 14:47-50. Do their past actions give us any reason to expect anything different from them?

During the Last Supper, Jesus had warned the disciples about the coming test. He warned Peter that Satan planned a special attack against him (Luke 22:31-34). But in Gethsemane, the disciples slept instead of prayed. Again, Jesus tried to prepare Peter for what was coming (Mark 14:37, 38). But Peter did not listen to Him. When the test came, the disciples at first tried to fight for Jesus's sake. Peter used his sword (John 18:10, 11). Peter and the other disciples were not in touch with Jesus, because His kingdom is spiritual and not of this world. Jesus does not approve of injuring others. So the disciples' weak, worldly actions failed. They all ran away.

All through the Gospels, the disciples make one mistake after another. They fail many times. But God used the disciples, except Judas, to form the Christian church. What message of hope does this give you?

FRIDAY—JUNE 10

ADDITIONAL STUDY: Study the same stories of Jesus' betrayal and arrest in Matthew 26:1-56, 69-75; Luke 22:1-62; John 13; John 18:1-11. Read Ellen G. White, "A Servant of Servants," "In Remembrance of Me," "Gethsemane," and "Judas" in *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 642–651, 652–661, 685–697, 716–722.

"The awful moment had come! That moment was to decide the future of the world. The future of humanity trembled (shook) in the balance. Jesus might even now refuse to drink the cup that guilty humanity⁷ deserved. It was not yet too late. . . . Will the Son of God drink the bitter cup of pain and suffering? Will the innocent Jesus suffer the results of the curse of sin to save the guilty? The words slowly came from the pale lips of Jesus, 'My Father, is it possible for this cup to be taken away? But if I must drink it, may what you want be done' (Matthew 26:42, NIV).

"Three times Jesus said that prayer. Three times the man in Jesus wanted to avoid the last, crowning sacrifice. But now the history of the human race comes up before the

world's Savior. Jesus sees that the lawbreakers, if left to themselves, must die. He sees humanity's helplessness. He sees the power of sin. The sad cries of a doomed⁸ world rise before Him. He sees the world's future. And His decision is made. He will save humanity at any cost to Himself."—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 690–693.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Think more about the idea of Jesus not drinking of the fruit of the vine ("wine"; grape juice) until we are all in the kingdom with Jesus. What does it tell us about God's character? Share with the class other Bible stories that teach us about God's character, because someone did not want to do something until someone else could do it with them.

SUMMARY: Jesus has come to the last moments of His earthly life. These moments were planned in heaven before sin ever happened on earth (Ephesians 1:3-5). Everyone around Jesus failed Him. Jesus alone stood firm. The future of the world depended upon Jesus standing firm.

⁷humanity—all the people of the world.

⁸doomed—to have no hope.