

LIFE OF A SERVANT**The Shepherd Is Struck, and the Sheep Scatter****Mark 14**

“Then everyone deserted him and fled.” Mark 14:50

Day 1: Read Mark 14:1–11.

1. What do you think the woman’s lavish anointing of Jesus shows about her heart?
2. What objection do the disciples (Mt. 26:8–9) raise?
3. Taking care of the poor is a theme that pervades the Bible, falling under the broader commandment to love one’s neighbor as oneself—yet Jesus affirms that the woman’s priorities are right. Look back at Mark 12:28–31. How does the order of the commandments show the appropriateness of the woman’s actions (and the inappropriateness of the disciples’ objection)?
4. What actions frame the narrative of the woman’s anointing of Jesus? (vss. 1–2, 10–11) What purpose do you think this framing serves?

Day 2: Read Mark 14:12–26.

5. The Lord’s Supper, or the Last Supper, is Jesus’ celebration with his disciples of the Passover meal. What event does the Passover commemorate? (Ex. 12:1–8, 21–30) Why is it fitting that Jesus is celebrating this particular feast on the eve of his suffering and death? (1 Cor. 5:7)
6. As they celebrated the Passover, faithful Jews looked both back to their deliverance at the time of Moses, and ahead to their deliverance at the coming of the Messiah. Similarly, our celebration of the Lord’s Supper today looks both backward and forward. What event does it commemorate? What event does it anticipate? (1 Cor. 11:23–26; cf. Mk. 14:25; Rev. 19:6–9)
7. Jesus speaks of the “blood of the covenant” (vs. 24). What does this phrase echo? (Ex. 24:3–8) How is the “new covenant” (Lk. 22:20) ushered in by Jesus better than the old covenant mediated by Moses? (Heb. 10:1–18)

Day 3: Read Mark 14:27–42.

8. What words does Jesus use to describe his anguish?

9. How does Jesus prepare for the suffering he knows is imminent?
10. What are the last words of the last section of teaching in Mark? (13:35–37) What instructions does Jesus give Peter, James, and John? (vss. 34, 38) What do they do instead?
11. Jesus is not merely seeking company during his time of trial; he is concerned for his disciples. Why is it so important for them to keep vigil? What is the temptation Jesus speaks of? (vss. 27, 30; cf. Lk. 22:31–32)
12. How do you sometimes find yourself “sleeping and resting” (vs. 41) like the disciples? Why is it imperative that we “watch and pray” (vs. 38) instead? (cf. Heb. 6:11–12; 1 Pet. 5:8)

Day 4: Read Mark 14:18–21, 43–65

13. How is Judas described in vss. 20 and 43? How does this highlight his treachery? (Ps. 41:9)
14. What light do Mt. 26:14–16 and Jn. 12:4–6 shed on Judas’ decision to betray Jesus?
15. How does Jesus’ trial before the Sanhedrin fulfill Old Testament prophecy? (Is. 50:6; 53:7)
16. What is the only thing Jesus says during his trial? Why do those listening interpret his statement as blasphemous? (cf. Ps. 110:1; Dan. 7:13–14) Why isn’t it? (Mk. 1:1; Heb. 1:3)

Day 5: Read Mark 14:66–72.

17. Where is Peter while Jesus’ trial is going on? (vss. 54, 66)
18. In what ways does Peter’s “trial” contrast with Jesus’?
19. Look at later accounts of Peter on trial in Acts 4:5–13, 18–20 and 5:25–32. What has brought about this dramatic difference in Peter? (Mk. 13:11; Acts 4:8)
20. All through this chapter, Jesus is abandoned in different ways, for different reasons. List the ways in which Jesus is abandoned by his disciples and followers. Then list some of their motives for abandoning him.

21. Who is more surprised by Peter's sin—Peter or Jesus? (vss. 27–31) Does our sin take God by surprise? How has God anticipated and dealt with every sin that we will ever commit?