

SERIES: **The Jesus Journey**

TEXT: **Mark 14:43-52**

'ALONE'- 10 contestants are abandoned in the wilderness and must survive 100 days alone.

Most don't make it not because of injury or hunger, but because of the loneliness.

TITLE: **The Abandoned Christ**

Let's go through the text & I'll make some contextual comments along the way,

but then I'd like to point out a powerful & practical truth and 2 implications extending from that

Mark 14:43 While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, suddenly arrived. With him was a mob, with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders.

- Chief priests, scribes & elders= the Sanhedrin, the Jewish ruling authority, under the Roman authority
- They had soldiers (temple police) who were Levites, the tribe responsible for ministering in the Temple
Wicked irony- those sworn to serve God now seek to shackle Him

Mark 14:44-45 His betrayer had given them a signal. "The one I kiss," he said, "he's the one; arrest him and take him away under guard." ⁴⁵ So when he came, immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him.

- Kissing as a greeting was customary- the Greek word used is an affectionate kiss
- Judas displayed affection but his motives were self-serving
Satan still deceives many into a religious attitude that ultimately seeks self-benefit

Mark 14:46 They took hold of him and arrested him.

- Jesus wasn't outwitted, overpowered or captured by surprise- He surrendered Himself!

John 18:4-8 Then Jesus, knowing everything that was about to happen to him, went out and said to them, "Who is it that you're seeking?" ⁵ "Jesus of Nazareth," they answered. "I am he," Jesus told them. Judas, who betrayed him, was also standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus told them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Then he asked them again, "Who is it that you're seeking?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they said. ⁸ "I told you I am he," Jesus replied. "So if you're looking for me, let these men go."

- In Eden, God came looking for guilty man, in Gethsemane, man came looking for guiltless Christ

Mark 14:47 One of those who stood by drew his sword, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear.

- Mark doesn't give us the name, but John does

John 18:10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

- Jesus was being unjustly arrested, but what Peter did was punishable by death.
The following day there would certainly be not only three, but four crosses on the hill of the skull.
Peter was a guilty man with a death sentence.

But Jesus intervened.

Luke 22:51 But Jesus responded, "No more of this!" And touching his ear, he healed him. This would be the last miracle Jesus performed before his crucifixion. This small miracle, however, would be a significant one. In Jesus healing Malchus he effectively removed all proof of Peter's crime.

What could they charge Peter with now? Nothing, for there was no evidence.

That's precisely what Jesus was on route to accomplish at the cross for all of us who believe.

He would effectively wipe away all evidence of our sin and guilt.

We can put away our swords. Might won't win this fight.

Warren Wiersbe put it well when he wrote,
"Peter had been sleeping when he should have been praying, talking when he should have been listening, and boasting when he should have been fearing. Now, he was fighting when he should have been surrendering! Peter made a number of serious mistakes when he attacked Malchus with his sword. Peter was fighting the wrong enemy with the wrong weapon. Our enemies are not flesh and blood, and they cannot be defeated with ordinary weapons."

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For although we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh, ⁴since the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments ⁵and every proud thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ.

Ephesians 6:10-13 Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. ¹³For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.

Mark 14:48-49 Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs, as if I were a criminal, to capture me? ⁴⁹Every day I was among you, teaching in the temple, and you didn't arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled."

- They had every opportunity to seize Him the previous two weeks, they knew where He was But they work in the cover of darkness because their deeds are evil.

John 3:19-20 This is the judgment: The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does evil hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed.

Mark 14:50-52 Then they all deserted him and ran away.

- These men who verses earlier had been bold as lions and vowed to go to the death with Jesus if need be, now coward like little lambs- picture them fleeing through the dark garden, abandoning behind them Jesus
- **Psalms 88:18** You have distanced loved one and neighbor from me; darkness is my only friend.

Mark 14:51-52 Now a certain young man, wearing nothing but a linen cloth, was following him. They caught hold of him, ⁵²but he left the linen cloth behind and ran away naked.

- Many possibilities have been offered for who this strange passage is referring to- I think the best to be that it was Mark, the writer of the gospel

Church tradition has the last supper at Mark's mother's house, where later in the books of Acts the church would meet (**Acts 12:11-12**)

If Judas would have gone there first looking for Jesus, it is possible that in the commotion Mark followed them hastily into Gethsemane.

What is certain is that this is an echo of another garden, Eden, where humanity's nakedness and shame were first exposed

Hebrews 4:13 No creature is hidden from him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.

So there is our text, the scene unfolds, and Jesus is left alone and abandoned.

At His greatest hour of need, everyone fled, everyone failed to keep their promises, everyone deserted Him.

But this abandonment of Jesus highlights a powerful and practical truth in the greater story of the Bible for followers of Jesus:

Jesus will not abandon you

We have been there, feeling the weight of our failures and repeated sinful mistakes, feeling like God should discard us. And He should!

But that scandal of the gospel, not only that He doesn't,

but that He takes it a step further & bestows on us His own righteousness!!!

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Let me expand by way of two implications of this great truth:

1. I am loved not because I am always faithful, but because even when I fail to be, He is

Their failure was not final. And neither is yours.

God used these men not because they never failed, but in spite of their failures

Our confidence must never rely on our commitment to Jesus but in His commitment to us

2 Timothy 2:13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

2. I can extend grace to those who fail me because I have received grace from the God I have failed

What kind of audacity does it take to be eager recipients of grace, but stingy when others need it from us?

"God have mercy on me, but don't expect me to have mercy on them"

Ephesians 4:29-32 No foul language should come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit. You were sealed by him for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice. ³² And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.

That Jesus will not abandon us, should encourage us in our weakest moments and propel us to love others in theirs

CALL UP WORSHIP TEAM

Jesus was left alone

Alone He must face judgment,
alone He must face torture,
alone He must be tried,
alone He must be found guilty though He alone was innocent,
alone He must be condemned,
alone He must die,
alone He must be buried...
because Jesus alone can save.

Gethsemane Hym, the Gettys-

*What took Him to this wretched place
What kept Him on this road
His love for Adam's cursed race
For every broken soul
No sin too slight to overlook
No crime too great to carry
All mingled in this poisoned cup
And yet He drank it all
The Saviour drank it all*

Can we give God the praise He deserves for His faithfulness to us

INVITATION

- Believer- repent of your abandonment of Christ & then fall on His faithfulness
- Friend- He surrendered His life for your though you are a sinner deserving judgment, will you surrender your life to Him? He can be your gracious savior

BULPEN-

Although the disciples failed Him, He would not fail them

This is an encouragement for weary followers, and a conviction that we should also extend grace to those who have left us at our hour of need

Jesus will never desert His own

Lamentations 3:19-24 Remember my affliction and my homelessness,
the wormwood and the poison.

20 I continually remember them
and have become depressed.

21 Yet I call this to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

22 Because of the Lord's faithful love
we do not perish,
for his mercies never end.

23 They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness!

24 I say, "The Lord is my portion,
therefore I will put my hope in him."

Hebrews 13:5 Keep your life free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have, for he himself has said, I will never leave you or abandon you.

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous; don't be terrified or afraid of them. For the LORD your God is the one who will go with you; he will not leave you or abandon you.

Psalms 103:8-10 The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in faithful love.

⁹He will not always accuse us
or be angry forever.

¹⁰He has not dealt with us as our sins deserve
or repaid us according to our iniquities.

Judas is not mentioned further in Mark's account

John 18:1-12 After Jesus had said these things, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. ²Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas took a company of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees and came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

⁴Then Jesus, knowing everything that was about to happen to him, went out and said to them, "Who is it that you're seeking?"

⁵"Jesus of Nazareth," they answered.

"I am he," Jesus told them.

Judas, who betrayed him, was also standing with them. ⁶When Jesus told them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground.

⁷Then he asked them again, "Who is it that you're seeking?"

“Jesus of Nazareth,” they said.

⁸“I told you I am he,” Jesus replied. “So if you’re looking for me, let these men go.” ⁹This was to fulfill the words he had said: “I have not lost one of those you have given me.”

¹⁰Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.)

¹¹At that, Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword away! Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me?”

¹²Then the company of soldiers, the commander, and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus and tied him up.

Luke 22:47-53 While he was still speaking, suddenly a mob came, and one of the Twelve named Judas was leading them. He came near Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸but Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

⁴⁹When those around him saw what was going to happen, they asked, “Lord, should we strike with the sword?” ⁵⁰Then one of them struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear.

⁵¹But Jesus responded, “No more of this!” And touching his ear, he healed him. ⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests, temple police, and the elders who had come for him, “Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a criminal? ⁵³Every day while I was with you in the temple, you never laid a hand on me. But this is your hour —and the dominion of darkness.”