

The Arrest and Trial of Jesus



SABBATH—SEPTEMBER 7

READ FOR THIS WEEK’S LESSON: Mark 14:1–11; Mark 14:22–31; Exodus 24:8; Mark 14:32–42; Mark 14:43–52; Mark 14:60–72.

MEMORY VERSE: “He said, ‘Abba, Father! You can do all things. Don’t make me drink from this cup. But do what you want, not what I want’ ” (Mark 14:36, ERV).



Most of the things in Mark 14–16 happen on Thursday and Friday of this final week before Jesus dies on the cross.

MARK 14–16 talks about Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection. The resurrection is the time when Jesus woke up from the dead. As we learned in lesson 9, the last six chapters in Mark talk about only one week. Most of the things in Mark 14–16 happen on Thursday and Friday of this final week before Jesus dies on the cross. Jesus dies on Friday. He wakes up from the dead on Sunday.

This week, we will study Mark 14. We will look at two different things that Jesus does. Then we will look at the Last Supper and Jesus’ suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus is arrested in Gethsemane. Then the soldiers take Jesus to the Jewish leaders for a trial. During this time, Peter says that he doesn’t know Jesus.

As we read the story in Mark 14, we see that another story happens at the same time. Mark shows us how the people in these two stories don’t get along and their plans don’t agree. So, the people fight against each other. Mark also shows us that, in the end, Jesus will win the fight against His enemies.

A STORY THAT EVERYONE WILL REMEMBER FOREVER (Mark 14:1–11)

Read Mark 14:1–11. What two stories do we read about in these verses? How are these stories connected?

Mark 14:1 says that the Passover feast was two days away. The Jewish spiritual leaders met on a Tuesday or Wednesday night of that same week. The leaders have a plan to kill Jesus. They just need a way to make their plan happen. They get help from someone they didn't expect to help them: Judas.

Mark 14:1–11 connects the plan to kill Jesus with a story about a woman who pours expensive perfume on Jesus' head. In these two stories, we see a woman who shows her love for Jesus and a follower of Jesus who sells Him to His enemies. The woman is not named. Judas is named and is one of Jesus' Twelve Followers. The woman spends a lot of money on her gift. Mark tells us how much the perfume is worth. Judas sells Jesus to His enemies for the promise of money.

Mark doesn't tell us why the woman pours her expensive perfume on Jesus' head. The guests at the feast are surprised and upset with the woman. They think she has wasted a lot of money when she pours the perfume on Jesus. The perfume costs the same as a whole year's pay for work. But Jesus praises the woman's gift. He promises that the story about her gift will be remembered wherever people preach the Good News. Matthew, Luke, and John also include this story about the woman in their books on Jesus' life.

Matthew, Luke, and John also remember Judas's evil actions against Jesus, but not for nice reasons. Mark suggests that Judas sold Jesus because he was selfish and loved money. The Book of John plainly tells us that Judas sold Jesus because Judas was a thief (John 12:4–6).

Mark uses the word "good" in different ways to help us understand the two plans happening in these stories. In Mark 14:6, Jesus says that the woman's action is "good" or "beautiful." Then Jesus tells His followers that they can do "good" for the poor anytime (Mark 14:7), but Jesus won't always be around for them to honor. In Mark 14:9, Jesus says the woman's loving gift will be part of the Good News story that people share about Him. In Mark 14:11, Judas looks for a "good" time to sell Jesus to His enemies. The enemies' awful plan to kill Jesus also will become part of the Good News about Jesus. Their plan to kill Jesus helps God's plan to give His Son to save sinners.



In these two stories, we see a woman who shows her love for Jesus and a follower of Jesus who sells Him to His enemies.

THE LAST SUPPER (Mark 14:22–31)

Read Mark 14:22–31 and Exodus 24:8. What does the story in Mark teach us about Christians and their faith?

Mark 14:12 says that this story happens on the first day of the Unleavened Bread celebration. On this special day, the Passover lamb was killed (read Exodus 12). The Passover meal happens on Thursday evening.

At the Last Supper, Jesus starts a new celebration with His followers: the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is connected with the Jewish Passover celebration and also with Israel's leaving Egypt. When Israel left Egypt, they became God's chosen people at Sinai. God made an agreement with His people there. In Exodus 24:8, Moses sprinkles the people with blood from an animal offering. Moses says, " 'This blood shows that the LORD has made a special agreement with you' " (Exodus 24:8, ERV).

At the Lord's Supper, Jesus doesn't use the lamb from the Passover meal. Why? Because Jesus **is** the Lamb of God (compare with John 1:29). The bread is a symbol for Jesus' body. The New Promise (compare with Jeremiah 31:31–34) is made with the blood of Jesus. The cup is a symbol of His blood. Jesus says, " 'This is my blood which begins the new agreement that God makes with his people. This blood is poured out for many [people]' " (Mark 14:24, ICB).

Then Jesus announces that all of His followers will leave Him. Jesus says the words of Zechariah 13:7. This verse says that when the sword hits the shepherd, all the sheep run away. Jesus is the Shepherd. His followers are the sheep. Jesus' message makes the followers sad. But Jesus adds words of hope. He promises His followers that He will wake up from the dead. Then He will go ahead of the followers to Galilee. Later, an angel in the form of a young man waits at Jesus' empty grave. The angel shares the promise, in Mark 16:7, with the women who come to pour oil on Jesus' body. So, this promise is important.

At the Last Supper, the followers have a hard time accepting Jesus' words. Peter announces that everyone else may leave Jesus and runaway. But he will stay loyal to Jesus. Jesus says that before the rooster crows twice, Peter will say three times that he doesn't know Jesus at all.

Did you promise God something and then break your promise? What did you learn from this experience?



At the Last Supper, Jesus starts a new celebration with His followers: the Lord's Supper.

GETHSEMANE (MARK 14:32–42)

Read Mark 14:32–42. What did Jesus pray in the Garden of Gethsemane? How did God answer Jesus' prayer?

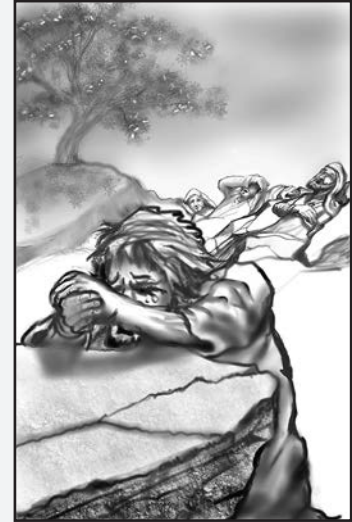
Jesus and His followers go across the Kidron Valley to a garden on the Mount of Olives. A mount is a very tall hill. The name Gethsemane means oil press. An oil press is a machine that squeezes oil from olives. This name suggests that there was an olive oil press somewhere nearby. No one today knows where the press was located. That's because the Romans cut down all the trees on the Mount of Olives when they attacked Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

Jesus leaves most of His followers at the entrance to the garden. Then Jesus continues on with Peter, James, and John. But Jesus also leaves these three men and continues alone. Mark shows us that Jesus is feeling more and more lonely and alone as He gets ready to suffer for our sins.

Jesus prays for God to remove His suffering. But only if that is the Father's plan for His Son (Mark 14:36). Jesus uses the Aramaic word "Abba," which Mark writes as "Father." "Abba" doesn't mean "daddy," as some people teach. The word for "daddy" in the Aramaic language is "abi." A child used this name for his father. (Read Raymond E. Brown, *The Death of the Messiah*, Anchor Bible Reference Library [New York: Doubleday, 1994], volume 1, pages 172, 173.) But the word "abba" does mean a close family relationship, which shows that God wants to be close to us in our hearts.

Jesus prays for God to remove His suffering. But Jesus gives Himself in obedience to God's plan for Him (compare with the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:10). We soon see that God's answer to Jesus' prayer is no. God will not remove the terrible experience that Jesus must suffer. Why? Because Jesus must suffer for us to save us. We can't be saved any other way.

We are glad to have friends who support us in hard times. In Philippians 4:13, Paul talks about how Jesus "is the one who gives me the strength I need to do whatever I must do" (ERV). Then Paul tells his friends, "But it was good that you helped me when I needed help" (verse 14, ERV). Jesus wanted help in Gethsemane. Three times He came to His followers for help and comfort. Three times they were sleeping. In the end, Jesus wakes them up to go to His trial. Jesus is ready. But His followers are not.



Mark shows us that Jesus is feeling more and more lonely and alone as He gets ready to suffer for our sins.

RUNNING AWAY FROM JESUS (Mark 14:43–52)

Read Mark 14:43–52. What happens in these verses that is so important to God’s plan to save us?

We may feel surprised that one of Jesus’ closest friends sells Him to His enemies. Mark doesn’t give us a lot of information about why Judas turns against Jesus. But Ellen G. White writes, “Judas had a strong love for money. But he wasn’t evil enough in the past to do what he did now. He continued to let his love for money control his life until his love for money controlled him completely. Judas’s love for money was more powerful than his love for Jesus. Judas became a slave to money, and this slavery caused him to give himself to Satan to do whatever sin Satan wanted him to do.”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, page 716, adapted.

Judas’s sin is made worse because he tries to hide it with friendship. Judas tells the crowd that the man he kisses is the one they should arrest.

The crowd arrests Jesus. Trouble starts. Someone pulls out a sword. John 18:10, 11 says Peter did it. Peter cuts off the ear of the servant of the high priest or top spiritual leader. Jesus talks to the mob. He scolds them for doing in secret what they were afraid to do in public when He taught them in the temple. But Jesus says the things that God promises about Him in the Old Testament must happen. So, we see God’s plan happens at the same time that evil men work to destroy Jesus.

All of Jesus’ followers run away, including Peter. But Peter comes back and follows behind Jesus. Shortly after, Peter gets himself in trouble. We also read in Mark 14:51, 52 about a young man who also followed Jesus. Matthew, Luke, and John don’t write about this young man in their books. Some people think this young man was Mark. But we have no proof. What is surprising is that the young man runs away without any clothes on his body. The young man does not leave everything to follow Jesus. The young man leaves everything to run away from Jesus.

Think about what Ellen G. White wrote about Judas. Judas was the “slave” of one sin. That one sin caused him to sell Jesus to His enemies. What should this story tell us about why we need to hate sin and win the fight against it in Jesus’ strength?



Judas tells the crowd that the man he kisses is the one they should arrest.

WHO ARE YOU? (Mark 14:60–72)

Read Mark 14:60–72. Compare what Jesus does with what Peter did. How are their actions different? What can we learn from their choices and behavior?

Mark 14:53–59 talks about how Jesus is brought to the Sanhedrin to stand trial. The Sanhedrin was the Jewish religious court in the time of Jesus. Again and again, the leaders try to accuse Jesus but without any success. Mark tells us how the witnesses against Jesus never agreed and that their stories against him were false.

Finally, the high priest or top spiritual leader stands and talks to Jesus. At first, Jesus doesn't answer. But then the high priest puts Jesus under oath before God (read Matthew 26:63). The high priest asks Jesus if He is the Messiah, or Chosen One. Jesus says, "I am," meaning that He is the Messiah (Mark 14:62). Then He says the quote from Daniel 7:13, 14. These verses talk about the Son of Man who sits at God's right side and will come to earth with clouds from heaven. The high priest refuses to accept Jesus' words about Himself. He tears his clothes and says that Jesus is guilty. The Sanhedrin agrees. The Jewish leaders spit on Jesus. Then they cover His face, beat Him, and ask Him to say who hits Him.

Meanwhile, Peter is outside lying about Jesus. (This is the 6th and final Sandwich Story. Read lesson 3 to review what we learned about Sandwich Stories.) Jesus reports the truth. Peter gives a false report. Three times servants or people from the crowd ask Peter if he knows Jesus. Each time Peter lies. Peter starts to use bad words to make people think he isn't Jesus' follower.

Just then, a rooster crows a second time. Peter remembers Jesus' words that he would reject Jesus three times that very night. Peter starts to cry. At the end of His trial, Jesus wears a blindfold. As we just saw, men hit Jesus and command Him to say who hit Him. The men make fun of Jesus because they think He can't see through the cloth. At this very time, Peter rejects Jesus a third time. In a strange way, when Peter rejects Jesus three times, he shows that Jesus is really God. That's because Peter does just what Jesus said he would do (read Mark 14:30).

What words of hope would you give to someone who wants to follow Jesus, but who fails at times to do so?



Peter remembers Jesus' words that he would reject Jesus three times that very night.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHT: Read Ellen G. White, “Before Annas and the Court of Caiaphas,” and “Judas,” in *The Desire of Ages*, pages 698–722.

“Just as Peter finished saying that he didn’t know Jesus, the rooster crowed. At that instant, the Savior turned from the frowning judges. Jesus looked at His poor follower. In that instant, Peter looked at His Master’s eyes. Peter saw deep pity and sorrow in the Savior’s eyes. But there was no anger there.

“Peter looked at Jesus’ suffering face. The Savior’s face was white, and His lips trembled. Jesus’ suffering and His look of compassion and forgiveness cut Peter’s heart the same as an arrow. Peter remembered the promise He made Jesus a few short hours ago. Peter promised that he would go with his Lord to prison and to death. Peter remembered that he felt so sad when the Savior told him in the upper room that he would reject his Lord three times in the same night. Now Peter just finished announcing that he didn’t know Jesus at all. Peter felt bitter sorrow. He understood that his Lord knew him better than he knew himself. Jesus read Peter’s heart. Jesus saw the weakness inside Peter that Peter didn’t know was there.”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, pages 712, 713.



“Jesus’ suffering and His look of compassion and forgiveness cut Peter’s heart the same as an arrow.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1 Read again Jesus’ words about the woman who poured perfume on His head. When we read her story, how are we part of the promise that Jesus made about her?
- 2 Compare Judas and Peter. What did they do to Jesus in the week before He died on the cross? How were these two men the same? How were they different?
- 3 Talk in class about the meaning of the Lord’s Supper. How can we help church members better understand the meaning of the Lord’s Supper? How can we get more members to celebrate it?
- 4 God said no to Jesus’ prayer in Gethsemane. What does it mean when God says no to us?
- 5 Peter failed, but Jesus didn’t reject him. What hope does this Bible truth give you?

PART 8: A DREAM ABOUT TOFU

Father started to get sharp pains in his belly. Mother and Anush decided to pay careful attention to Father's diet. Anush didn't eat any meat. Mother was a scientist. She knew which foods were good for you. But Mother had not fed her family the most healthful foods. Mother and Anush started to feed Father meals made mostly from plants. Father's stomach aches went away.

Then Father had another dream. He saw a bright light in the garage. The light was so bright. Father couldn't look at it. A voice said from the light, "Don't be afraid. Come. Take this bucket with seeds. Plant the seeds on this table."

Father saw a bucket of seeds next to a steel table. But Father didn't understand why the voice commanded him to do something so strange. When Father studied at the university, he trained to be a crop scientist. So, he knew about plants. But even a child knew that seeds couldn't sprout from steel! Father said, "Seeds must be planted in the ground to grow." But the voice commanded, "Do as I say." So, Father obeyed.

In the dream, a day passed. Then Father saw healthy, 3-inch plants growing from the table! Father was amazed. He asked, "How can seeds grow in one night and on this steel table?"

The voice commanded, "Pull up the plants and sell them."

Father told the dream to his family. As Anush listened, she wondered if God was telling Father to make tofu. Tofu is a food made from soybean plants. Tofu is used as a substitute for meat. No company in Armenia made tofu.

Then Anush went to a meeting in Ukraine, in 2019. The 300 people at the meeting got excited when they heard about Father's dream. At the time, Adventists in Ukraine had many companies and health-food stores that made and sold tofu. When the meeting manager asked the people at the meeting who would teach Father to make tofu, everyone volunteered.

Two months later, Father bought plane tickets to Ukraine. He and Mother left home without knowing exactly what was going to happen, the same as Abraham and Sarah. God took care of everything. Church workers met them at the airport. Father and Mother stayed with the workers during the time they visited health-food stores and tofu companies for 12 days. Father saw Christians could work both for money and God's glory. When he came home, he opened Armenia's first tofu company. Anush was so happy! She could hardly believe that Father had used her meat-free diet as a reason to prevent her from going to church. Now he was selling tofu and telling people to eat a healthful diet!

INSIDE *Story*

by ANDREW MCCHESENEY



Father saw healthy, 3-inch plants growing from the table!