**Follow – Gospel of Mark - Wk 36 – Dealing with Darkness**

**Shampoo – wash - rinse – repeat.**

**Walking with Jesus through the gospel of Mark.**

**It is down to the final 12 hours leading to the cross.**

**The last supper has just taken place - Mark 14:26 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. (So, they walk there, some of the most interesting conversations happen on a walk w/ Jesus) 27“You will all fall away,” (Can you imagine being told that?) Jesus told them, “For it is written, “‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ (Zechariah 13:7)**

**This was not to condemn the disciples but to show that he is really in control. This is the plan – scriptures will be fulfilled.**

**28But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.” (Already looking beyond the cross) 29Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not.” (They might, but I will never!!! But Jesus already knew the battle they would face. Peter only saw the moment – Jesus saw the struggle within) 30“Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “today- yes, tonight - before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.” 31But Peter insisted emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the others said the same.**

**(The Rick Astley translation includes – “Never gonna give you up, never gonna let you down, Never gonna run around and desert you, Never gonna make you cry, never gonna say goodbye, Never gonna tell a lie and hurt you”)**

**I can see Jesus smiling, Sure... They will soon find out Jesus was right.**

**East of the temple, 20 min walk. They come to Gethsemane**

**A garden at the base of the mount, known for its ancient olive trees. The mount has been a cemetery for thousands of years.**

**John 18 – a place they went often. Gethsemane (lit. “olive press” Christ was to be pressed as a sweet oil of grace!**

**32They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.”  33He took Peter, James and John (big three) along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. 34“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow (lit. surrounded w/ sadness, great internal pressure) to the point of death,”**

**Knowing the weight he was to bare, not just the physical death of crucifixion, but also the weight of the worlds pain, shame, and sin. All to be placed in his shoulders.**

**\*1 Pet 2:24 Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross…**

**\*Isaiah 53:4 Surely, He took on our infirmities and carried our sorrows**

**\*Isaiah 53:5 …the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him…**

**\*2 Co 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

**He knew this was coming within hours… The thought of this – in his humanity was overwhelming – What does he do? Pray!**

**The weight of the world is coming to his shoulders – so he says… 14:34b …he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.” (Matthew says - watch and pray) 35Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible, the hour might pass from him. (This is not a conflict of will, this was, in his humanity, omniscient realization of the magnitude of what was to happen)**

**Luke 22:44 And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.**

**Condition known as Hema-ti-drosis. When capillary blood vessels that feed the sweat glands rupture, causing them to emit blood; occurs during extreme physical or emotional stress. (Mormons…)**

**As he prayed, he says - 36*“Abba*, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”**

**This cup – OT for judgment and wrath (Ps 75:8, Is 51:17, Jer 25:15, Rev). Jesus was to receive the Fathers wrath.**

**Accusation of cosmic child abuse. Jesus was not in a place of crisis, but a place of heartache in his humanity for humanity.**

**Why would Jesus do this? Why endure so much pain?**

**For the joy set before him… you. (Heb 12:2)**

**37Then he returned to his disciples and found the sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour?**

**After all it was a long day – up since early Thursday – it is now past midnight. I see him asking in love. Notice he said Simon not Peter – he was being a rock at that moment.**

**38Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” 39Once more he went away and prayed the same thing.**

**Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. That is the reality of most of our spiritual lives – it is mine sometimes.**

**Jesus was not angry - he understood their struggle.**

**40When he came back, he again found them sleeping, (Jesus watching them sleeping – I think of a father who watches their child) because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. (Jesus… we are tired) 41Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! (not mad at them… lit. enough sleeping, wake up…) The hour has come.**

**This is how it all went down… At some point after midnight…**

**Mark 14:41b Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. (prophecy) 42Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!” 43Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, (you can now see why Jesus said to be alert) sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders. (They came at night so no one would see it – an attempt to avoid a riot) 44Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” (no photos, common greeting identified Jesus) 45Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” (teacher) and kissed him. (Loved him to his face – but betrayed him behind his back – fake affection) 46The men seized Jesus and arrested him.**

**Devastating to the other disciples – Judas how could you! A panic breaks out.**

**47Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. (This is mentioned in all 4 gospels – it happened – people of peace in panic became physical)**

**John 18 - disciple is Peter, servant is Malchus (real people)**

**Matthew 26:52 - Jesus said to him, “Put your sword away. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword.” People ready to fight – often do**

**Luke 22 records that Jesus healed him.**

**Jesus last recorded miracle for another. Just a thought - if Jesus had not healed him, Peter would have been arrested - with four crosses that day. That miracle saved Peter’s life.**

**Mark 14:48“Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? 49Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. (You treat me like a criminal – why?) But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” (Prophecy - Jesus was always in control**

**Isaiah 53 – the messiah would be treated as a sinner – as a common criminal and put to death.**

**Then possibly one of the saddest verses n the bible… 50Then everyone deserted him and fled. (Just as Jesus had said – they all left him...)**

**(One in particular stands out in Mark only) 51A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, (expensive linen, common to be naked under your garments – but this was wrapped around him) was following Jesus. When they seized him, 52he fled naked, leaving his garment behind. (Many speculate that this man was John Mark himself, following from his house - grabbing a linen he followed - telling his involvement – “I was there” - but we do not know for sure.)**

**Garden of Gethsemane - naked and ashamed… opposite of the garden of Eden – naked and unashamed. We see another mention of the same type of garment in Mark at resurrection.**

**Simply - So determined to save his own hide – he ran off w/out clothes!**

**They all were so determined and committed to Him – they left.**

**Jesus who had done so much for so many – is left alone.**

**A way to learn from this passage is to see it with the future in mind.**

**Before and After – A Few Lessons from the Arrest**

* **God is always and forever in control – his plans cannot be stopped**

**We can see this with the end in mind it all comes together… they did not know it yet – panic and fear lead their choices.**

**Mark 14:28 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.” (Already looking beyond the cross to the resurrection. This is and always was the plan.)**

**This is a reference to his resurrection and a restoration**

**So much fulfilled prophecy in the life of Jesus. The actions of people are seamlessly playing out the plan of God.**

* **Without the power the Holy Spirit we will always run**

**They at this point they lacked the infilling power of the Holy Spirit as recorded in Acts 2 - now given to all those born again.**

**We have no strength in ourselves to follow Jesus. After the HS they never left again. But at that moment… they ran!**

**I think of Peter and the sword (foolish to think he can stop God’s plan)**

**Yielding the power of the world, he only gains the ears of men.**

**Yielding the power of God, he gains the hearts of men.**

**I choose the greater gain!**

* **When it feels like your world is falling apart – fall on your knees**

**Dealing with the Darkness - When facing the Darkness**

**Jesus Prayer – teaches us that when life will bring its heartache and trials - What can we do? Get on our knees.**

**1. Watch – be alert and watch for trouble**

**Matt 26:41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Watch and praying joke…)**

**We are all susceptible to failing and falling – be mindful.**

**They were so determined… we would never!!! Not me Jesus…**

**1 Cor 10:12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!**

**We often overestimate our personal strength.**

**I’ll never fall, I’ll never walk away, I am with you forever Jesus!**

**God knew them and you better than you know yourself. When we are tired and feeling weak are most often when we stumble.**

**2. Pray – lean into God as your strength**

**Mark 14:36 “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you.”**

**We pray to the all-powerful God who is forever and always in control. Jesus went here to pray and connect with the Father.**

**Two things about this:**

**“Abba Father”**

* **Father God is never far from his kids in moments of trials**

**This was a recognition of how close the Father was – intimacy.**

**Through Jesus alone we become children of God (John 1:12) with adoption we have the right to call him Abba Father (Ro 8:15, Gal 4:6)**

 **…everything is possible for you.**

* **Father God is still in control no matter what happens**

**It may seem like you’re surrounded, but God is working…**

**3. Release - Rest in the peace of submission to God’s will**

**“Abba Father… Yet not what I will, but what you will.”**

**Father is not in the earthly sense. God does not have babies – Son & Father relationship is a place of submission – as a son to a Father. Jesus (the man) submits to God (the Father).**

**Jesus is fully God and never less. Jesus willingly took on humanity and willingly submitted to the Father. Even though he was fully God – he said, “Your will be done.”**

**Father God my life is yours to fulfill your purpose, no matter what happen. That is to be our prayer- not what I want, but what you will.**

**Some see prayer as attempts to control & manipulate God - making demands and assumptions that he has to do what you say.**

**Watch – Pray – Release - 4. Repeat**

**3X Jesus repeated this – why? Was one not enough? Sometimes we just need to keep what God is doing and who God is in the front of our thinking. Keep it on your lips.**

**\*\* What follows are the beatings and trials of Jesus – next wk.**