



‘Now!’ Sermon Series

Sermon #45

‘Oh What a Night!’

Mark 14:22-52

Wednesday, April 9th, 2025

This Past Sunday in the NOW Sermon Series:

- This past Sunday I preached from Mark 14:12-21 with a sermon entitled ***‘A Snake in the Grass!’***.
 - In this sermon, we looked at the passover meal and how Judas was a snake in the grass.
 - ***In this sermon we were able to see the contrast of Jesus in His Grace, and Judas in his selfishness.***
- This past Sunday I asked the question: ***How does Jesus show in the upper room that He is Sovereign and all knowing?***
 - ***Truth #1: The Savior is in Control. (vv. 12-16)***
 - ***Truth #2: A Snake is not in Control. (vv. 17-21)***

- Based on this past Sunday’s sermon, are you a snake in the grass biting other people?
- Or, are you aware of those who may be snake’s in the grass in your life?

‘Oh What a Night!’

Mark 14:22-52

Sermon in a Sentence:

It was an ‘Oh What a Night’ kind of moment when the Authority, Anticipation, Agony, Arrest and Anonymous all occurred the night before Jesus would die on Calvary’s Cross.

Intro:

- Growing up as a kid, one of my fondest memories is hearing music most all of the time.
 - ***Whether in the car, on vacation, or sitting at home, my grandparents made it a point to always have music on and playing.***
- My grandparents grew up in the 60s, and they loved Franki Valli and the Four Seasons.
 - ***One song I remember hearing quite a bit, was ‘December, 1963, or what a night!’***
 - The song was released in 1975, but I remember on different occasions when my grandad would go and visit in the nursing homes, I would get to tag along and he’d set up the equipment for me to be able to sing to the senior adult residents.
- ***The story behind the song is quite interesting...***

- Bob Gaudio who was a singer and songwriter for the Four Seasons, wrote the lyrics to the song.
- Originally, its lyrics were set in 1933 in New Jersey when it was announced that prohibition had been repealed.
 - ***The title was originally 'December 5th, 1933'.***
- To make the song a bit more 'family friendly' since the Four Seasons audience catered to families, Judy Parker, Bob Gaudio's girlfriend decided to change the lyrics to when she and Bob first met.
 - ***The song became a hit, and even helped to coin the phrase 'Oh What a Night!'.***
- ***But long before the song was ever written there was quite a night that was unlike any other.***
 - The night before Jesus died on Calvary's Cross was quite eventful.
 - Since there are many events that occurred in our text tonight, we are going to summarize these verses as we go through them.

Question to Ask:

What happened on the night before Jesus went to Calvary's Cross to be crucified?

Truth #1: *The Authority.* (vv. 22-25)

- 'And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." **23** And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. **24** And he said to them, "This is my blood of the ^[c]covenant, which is poured out for many. **25** Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."
- Jesus changed the passover to the First Lord's Supper.
- V. 24, the New Covenant.

Truth #2: *The Anticipation.* (vv. 26-31)

- 'And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. **27** And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' **28** But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." **29** Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." **30** And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." **31** But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.'
- ***In verse 27 the idea is not to lose faith permanently but to temporarily lose courage.***

Truth #3: *The Agony.* (vv. 32-42)

- And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” **33** And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. **34** And he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.”^[d] **35** And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. **36** And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” **37** And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? **38** Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” **39** And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. **40** And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. **41** And he came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. **42** Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”
- **V. 36, Jesus was submissive to God’s Will.**
 - He prayed to be spared death was answered, but it was in accordance with the divine will of God.
 - **God gave His Son something even better than what He had prayed for, ‘VICTORY OVER DEATH’.**

Truth #4: *The Arrest.* (vv. 43-50)

- ‘And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. **44** Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard.” **45** And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” And he kissed him. **46** And they laid hands on him and seized him. **47** But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant^[e] of the high priest and cut off his ear. **48** And Jesus said to them, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? **49** Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled.” **50** And they all left him and fled.’
- **Vv. 44-45**
 - The particular sign being used as a betrayal kiss is interesting here.
 - ***It’s puzzling because nowhere else is Jesus greeted by a disciple with a kiss.***
 - According to 1 Samuel 10:1, 2 Samuel 19:40, Luke 7:38 and Acts 20:37 it was a sign of homage and respect.
- Verse 50, the word ‘all’ in the Greek text is last in the sentence. For emphasis.

Truth #5: *The Anonymous.* (vv. 51-52)

- ‘And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.’
- ***This incident is only recorded in Mark’s Gospel.***
 - Which leads most scholars to believe that Mark is talking about himself.
 - *It’s possible that Mark was talking about himself here, due to the modesty of not including his own name.*
 - Some call it the ‘signature in the corner of his work’.
 - ***But, speculation about who this individual was is certainly profitless due to the fact that we simply just don’t know.***
- But, the lack of identity invites you and I as readers to examine our own readiness to abandon Jesus.
 - ***This scripture, oddly enough, fulfills Amos 2:16...***
 - ‘and he who is stout of heart among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day,” declares the LORD.’ Amos 2:16