

## **Their Witness Agreed Not**

*Mark 14:22 – 72*

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~ Our last report from our Spiritual Safari was the beginning of this longest chapter in Mark, and we saw the plot to kill Jesus, we went to the last supper at Bethany where Judas hatched his plot to betray Jesus, and Mary anointed Him for burial and entered into His death with Him by acknowledging that she understood what was happening. Mary had a keen spiritual discernment that the other apostles did not have. In this report, we will continue to cover the Passover; and Jesus institutes a new feast on the dying embers of the old ritual. This new feast is one that is extremely perishable – Bread and Wine! The Passover looked forward to His coming as the Passover Lamb, and now the Lord's Supper looks back upon His death! They are identical institutions that view Jesus from two perspectives: past and present. The bread speaks of His body that was broken, although no bones were broken; and the wine speaks to His blood that was shed. We are also going to the Garden in Gethsemane where Jesus will be quickly arrested and subsequently put on trial. Things happen fast in this action-packed Gospel....

***22 And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body.***

***23 And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it.***

***24 And he said unto them, This is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many.***

***25 Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.***

~ The Passover cup went around seven times during the Passover feast and during that time they would sing one of the great Psalms. On the seventh

time around, Jesus did not drink; this is when the Lord's Supper was instituted. Now, the Passover will definitely be restored in the Millennial Kingdom. Ezekiel will tell us all about that; the reason I think this also is because the Passover will look back upon His coming to the earth as it had previously looked forward to His coming to the earth. There doesn't seem to be any reason that it cannot look back as easily as it could look forward. That would bring out the real meaning of it as Paul said, "... Christ, our Passover, is offered for us" ~

***26 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.***

***27 And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.***

***28 But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee.***

***29 But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I.***

***30 And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.***

***31 But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all.***

~ This isn't just Simon Peter's pledge of allegiance to the Lord Jesus; all of the apostles took the oath! It is an admirable oath, but Peter does not recognize his own weakness. This is the biggest problem with most of us today; we do not understand our own frailties and inabilities. Psychology will not reveal your weaknesses, either, by the way. The only place we can truly see ourselves is in the Word of God; it's the only accurate mirror we have in this world.

Here is an excerpt from a publication by a Christian organization. A girl had a problem, and she went to her pastor – and I quote: "...after several talks, the pastor realized he was not equipped to help her as much as she could

be helped. The pastor referred her to a qualified Christian psychologist who, as a professional counselor, led the woman into a deeper understanding of the sources of her anxieties. Many stemmed from childhood experiences that were long since forgotten; but now had been recalled under the guidance of a skilled helper. The result is a Christian teen released from the grip of emotional problems and given a new relationship with herself, others and the Lord.'" – end quote.

Well, that type of thing reads like a fairy tale; and if they just tacked 'she lived happily ever after' on at the end, it would be perfectly fictitious. Of course, it is either way. I just happen to be an expert with highly credible sources, and an expert in knowledge and understanding that Christian psychologists are no more equipped to deal with these problems today than the average pastor is. We have been absolutely diluted to believe the psychologist can make a few notes and a report on someone after meeting with them a few times, sell them some prescription drugs and send them on their way - and believe somehow the problems are solved and everything is going to be okay. It is sheer nonsense, quite frankly. No man knows the depths of the human heart – you can just write that down - and make a report on THAT. We'll have one on safari later in Proverbs - and Jeremiah.

Only a proper, correct and complete understanding of the Word of God can honestly reveal the level of hell you truly deserve to reside in, my friends. A complete and total ignorance of the Bible is every single one of our problems in the church today rolled into one: the psychologist, the pastor, the teen girl, the person that wrote the article cited above - you and me! We can only help others if we know the Word of God! We have such a skewed idea of what to expect from the Bible that when things don't quite work out immediately, we run to the psychologist who just shifts the problems from one compartment of our mind to another. Usually, they come away with three more problems and the one they went there for originally is still a problem – they just forget about it, for the most part.

I know this is not popular teaching, but it just happens to be true. Don't bother writing me back saying the Bible is wrong because YOU are wrong! Let's be perfectly and crystal clear: the ONLY solution to our problems is the

Lord Jesus Christ! We don't solve the problem and then take our perfected lives to the Lord, friends; no, Christ is the Chief Physician, and He is the ONLY One Who can heal your psychologically damaged life and the resulting problems. I'm not saying God won't work through some man-doctor, but you better begin treatment in prayer and Bible study with Him! Jesus is the only psychologist that knows us, and He is the Only One who can prescribe the proper remedy in the final analysis.

I am rather insistent when I say these things and I have the proper background to make these very important statements; someone needs to say the things we are going to be saying in our Spiritual Safari. Too many people are making merchandise of the ills of other people today in the name of "Christianity" but they do not correctly understand their Bibles, so they do not understand their lives; only the Word of God has the solution to your problems and only the Word of God can answer your questions satisfactorily. People don't seem to be told this anymore. Turn to God today, friends, and recognize that your bad childhood or bad marriage or bad children or bad job or bad whatever is no excuse. You may have had a bad EVERYTHING - and probably did - if you're bothering to read this report. The Lord Jesus Christ is our Savior, and He wants us to turn to Him. We CAN go to Him! How marvelous it is to have someone we can go to who demonstrably and tangibly cares for us! ~

Alright, now Jesus announces He is going before them into Galilee, and He talks more about the resurrection. Jesus tells them the sheep will be scattered, but He is going before them; and Jesus says He will meet them there after His resurrection. Simon Peter just didn't know what he was saying - again. Jesus let's Peter know that Peter won't be as loyal as Peter thinks he will be, but Jesus tells Peter that He will stand by him! How wonderful it is to now the Lord is standing by us – even when we fail Him! God is faithful, my beloved - even when we're not. Even in our most desperate and dastardly hour, which it was for this man, Peter, Jesus won't deny you. In fact, Jesus says He will never leave us nor forsake us! Anyone who doubts that should inventory the direct disobedience and willful rebellion towards God in their lives....

***32 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.***

~ The apostles now return to a very familiar place. Interestingly, we don't know about this Garden of Gethsemane today – was it a real place? Good authority locates it on the backside of the mountain. This is a place old Judas knew well. Jesus never spent the night in Jerusalem, and this is certainly one of the places they stayed during the night. So, there are eight apostles on the outside, Judas has defected and these three are the ones Jesus takes with Him. I think Jesus brought these three a few steps closer to Him in this hour as He goes to pray. It also would appear from the tones of these accounts that Jesus faced a horrible ordeal in this garden....

***33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;***

***34 And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.***

~ This language means Jesus was stunned with the reality of what was next for Him. The apostles had never seen Him act this way. Jesus was distressed and probably discouraged at this time. Even though Jesus knows how this concludes with Him in Heaven, He is still terrified by the thoughts of what has to happen in between here and there! I think this suffering may have been worse than the suffering endured on the cross. Did Jesus face the tempter of the devil here again? I think this was just as real of a temptation from Satan to Jesus as the first one was! Maybe it's not recorded because the apostles fell asleep? There are several mysteries in this Garden of Gethsemane, and we can only stand on the uttermost fringe of understanding here.

I do not understand several things about this account, and it's incredibly audacious for any man to say they understand what happened. That song that says, "... I'll go with Him through the Garden" is outright blasphemy. I'm sorry, friends; I hope you'll still love me when I tell you I cannot go through that garden with Jesus. I'll be over there asleep with the others. Sleep seems to be the only time when I can relax and forget the cares of

the day. In fact, a nice nap right here sounds perfect. These other three were not alarmed; they could sleep through anything. Peter didn't even flinch when informed he would deny Christ! Peter just dozes off to avoid temptation. Most of you don't know how stumbling and bumbling and ridiculous I really am. I hope none of you ever know what a complete failure I am. Well, before I doze off, I'm going to stand at the edge and watch Him pray for a while. Then I am going to pray. That's what Jesus tells us to do that we enter not into temptation....

***35 And he went forward a little, and 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 unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.***

~ Notice that Mark tells us Jesus prayed the hour might pass. Death really wasn't the scary thing, but the manner of that death – nailed to a cross - left there to hang naked and die like that - was unnerving! That moment when our sin was put on Him was the awful and unspeakable hour for Christ! Well, that's what He went through. The hour and the cup are made synonymous here by Jesus. The writer to the Hebrews says that in the days of His flesh when He had offered up prayers and supplication with strong crying and tears that were unto Him that was able to save Him to the uttermost from death, was heard in that He feared; though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered....

***37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour?***

***38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.***

***39 And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words.***

***40 And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him.***

~ This second sleeping incident reveals they had no excuse for their failures. Friends, the flesh cannot be trusted for a moment. Jesus is going to let them to get some rest now before He is arrested and there is, apparently, a lapse of some period of time....

***41 And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.***

***42 Rise up let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.***

***43 And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.***

~ So, the religious rulers have come to do exactly what they said they would not do during the feast days! This account is the basest act of treachery ever recorded by mankind. It is foul and loathsome. Judas knew the safe place of retirement and prayer that Jesus and His apostles went to and he brought the enemy to that place! A kiss is a badge of love and affection. Judas used that honor to betray the Lord Jesus. I think that makes this act more repugnant than a mob murder. We do well to observe that the Lord Jesus – in His humanity – was no different from any other man than you or I. He was just another ordinary Jew in the crowd. Jesus was a man in all points - except He knew no sin....

***44 And he that betrayed him had given them a token, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he; take him, and lead him away safely.***

***45 And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to him, and saith, Master, master; and kissed him.***

***46 And they laid their hands on him, and took him.***

***47 And one of them that stood by drew a sword, and smote a servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.***

***48 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Are ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and with staves to take me?***

***49 I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not: but the scriptures must be fulfilled.***

***50 And they all forsook him, and fled.***

~ Unfortunately, verse fifty is the prophetic Scripture that still needed to be fulfilled; and, of course, this marks the moment in time when Jesus allows Himself to be delivered into the hands of men to go to the cross. This is where Simon Peter attempts to come to the rescue of the Lord Jesus. John tells us in his eighteenth chapter this was Peter that swung the sword. Peter was probably a good fisherman, but he was a lousy swordsman; and he only injured the man by cutting off his ear when he was trying to kill by cutting off his head. Peter missed the neck by several inches, you see. They all forsook Him at that time and ran; and that fulfilled this prophecy. I have always wondered who this "certain young man" in verse fifty-one was. Some think this was Saul of Tarsus and some think it was John Mark. If forced to make a choice, I would be more apt to choose Mark as the fleeing naked man. It's sheer speculation on my part, but we try to cover all the angles on our Spiritual Safari....

***51 And there followed him a certain young man, having a linen cloth cast about his naked body; and the young men laid hold on him:***

***52 And he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked.***

***53 And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes.***

***54 And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire.***

***55 And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none.***



**56 For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together.**

**57 And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying,**

**58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.**

**59 But neither so did their witness agree together.**

**60 And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?**

**61 But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?**

~ We will take up the trial in even more detail when we get to Luke and John; but here, we should emphasize that Jesus was brought before the Sanhedrin at night. When they brought the false witnesses, He didn't even say a word. They want to hear Him say He is the Messiah, the Son of God – from His own lips. Anyone who denies the Word of God teaches the deity of Christ on this earth doesn't understand or has not read this passage - or they simply do not believe the Bible. Jesus is under oath now and He is claiming to be God! Not only that but the high priest understood exactly what Jesus meant when He said that about the right hand and coming in the clouds....

**62 And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.**

**63 Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses?**

~ Obviously, they needed another witness to remind them of a law we're going to see soon that says the high priest was never to tear his garments. Either Jesus was accurate in His claim to be God, or He was NOT accurate in

that claim; and if that claim is not accurate then Jesus was a stark raving lunatic to do this to Himself....

***64 Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death.***

***65 And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.***

***66 And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest:***

***67 And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth.***

***68 But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew.***

***69 And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by, This is one of them.***

***70 And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a Galilaean, and thy speech agreeth thereto.***

***71 But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak.***

***72 And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.***

~ And, with that, our safari concludes this leg of our expedition with the whisper of a little maid sending Peter into psychological trauma as he is forced to deny Jesus again and again to fulfill His prophetic statement. This little maid wouldn't let up on Peter, and Peter began to curse and weep.

Peter wept genuine tears because he is repenting of his sins now, friends. Do you weep genuine tears of repentance? Peter wrote later that we are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last days. Peter wept - but he will learn that the Lord will hold him and bring joy ~

