



Introduction:

You can find this week's sermon notes [here](#)¹ and listen to the sermon by clicking [here](#).²

Scripture:

Please turn to Mark 14:43-52 in your Bible [or click here](#).

“How will you respond when your hour of trial comes?”

So What?

Shortly after the last supper, Jesus took his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-42). Jesus prayed while the disciples slept. Consequently, Jesus was prepared for the trial that was to follow while the disciples were unprepared. How we respond to trials depends in large part on how much we prayed beforehand.

Judas came with a crowd to arrest Jesus (43-46). He knew the place and the person. All of the gospel writers identify him as “one of the twelve.” Rather than introducing a previously unknown character to the story, I think the statement is made with a note of incredulity. An act of betrayal can sometimes be official, sometimes be very personal, and sometimes, it can be both. Peter responds to the trial by lashing out and attacking one close to him (47). In the heat of the moment, he cuts off the ear of the servant of the high priest. An inappropriate response to trials can often injure those closest to us.

In contrast, Jesus submitted to God's plan (48-49). Jesus points out that the religious leaders are acting cowardly by arresting him in the dark when they could have done it while he was teaching in the temple. Jesus allows them to do their work and does not resist. Instead of retaliation, Jesus serves by healing Malchus and restoring his ear (Luke 22:51).

Previously, all the disciples affirmed their willingness to die for Jesus. Now, they are unwilling to die with Jesus. They flee in haste, including one young man who ran so fast he left his clothes behind (50-52). It symbolizes the fact that Jesus was completely alone as he faced his greatest trial. How will you respond when your hour of trial comes? When you lash out? Will you run away? Will you submit to God's plan?³

What Now?

1. We ought not live in fear, but we must not live in denial. Trial do come in life. Sometimes we don't see them coming, and sometimes we can see the storm brewing. In either case, we must prepare ahead of time through prayer and worship. If we know something is coming, we want to pray for specific help to weather it. A strong prayer life prepares us for sudden trials.
2. When we are hurt by someone how do we react? Is it okay to lash out at them? Jesus rebuked Peter cut lashing out with a sword, then he healed the man's ear.⁴ Jesus calls his disciples to a radical love. Pray for our enemies. This is not natural, we must pray for God's perspective in this. Read Matt. 5:43-48 and compare this text with Jesus' and Peter's reaction.
3. Judas betrayed Jesus, the disciples abandoned him, and Peter eventually denies him. Have you been a betrayer, abandoner, or denier? Judas never repented. The disciples do and Christ fully forgives them and gives them a ministry. Do not despair, but instead reconcile with those you hurt and go to God in prayer. There is forgiveness when we confess.

¹ <https://wheelsms.wordpress.com/2016/04/03/the-kiss-of-death/>

² firstcentralbaptist.com/sermons/gospelofmark.html

³ This is an excerpt from Pastor Mark's sermon notes.

⁴ Luke 22:50-51