

# Mark

## Lesson 18

### Chapter 14:32-15:20

## Participant Guide

Leader Guide Bible Studies

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# Jesus' Arrest and Trial

## Lesson 18, Mark 14:32-15:20

### Prayers

#### Introduction

Following the Last Supper, Jesus took his disciples to pray at the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives, as was his custom. There he prayed to his Father to find another way to accomplish his will. God sent an angel to strengthen him, and Jesus awaited His arrest, trials, and sentencing.

Jesus was taken before the high priests and the Sanhedrin, Herod, and Pilate for trial. Jesus confessed that he was the Son of God and was condemned to death. Judas, filled with remorse when he saw Jesus condemned by the Sanhedrin, returned the 30 pieces of silver, confessed his sin, and went away to hang himself.

Jesus was taken to Pilate for questioning and sentencing in a Roman court because the Sanhedrin had no authority to carry out a death sentence. Read the account of Jesus' arrest trial in merged passages from Mark 14-15, John 18-19, Luke 22-23, and Matthew 26-27.

#### **Mark 14:32-42, Gethsemane. Parallel verses in Mt 26:36-46; Lk 22:40-46**

Mk 14:32 They went to a place [an olive grove] called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, **"Sit here while I pray. [Lk 22:39 Pray that you will not fall into temptation.]"**

Mk 14:33 He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.

Mk 14:34 **"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,"** he said to them. **"Stay here and keep watch."**

Mk 14:35 Going a little farther [about a stone's throw beyond them], he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him.

Mk 14:36 **"Abba, Father,"** he said, **"everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."**

Lk 22:43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.

Lk 22:44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Lk 22:45 When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow.

Mk 14:37 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. **"Simon,"** he said to Peter, **"are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?"**

Mk 14:38 **Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."**

Mk 14:39 Once more he went away and prayed the same thing [<sup>Mt 26:42</sup> “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”]

Mk 14:40 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

Mk 14:41 Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Mk 14:42 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

1. In Verse 39, Luke includes the detail that after the supper, Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives. How does this indicate that he was in command of the situation?

2. What do you learn about Jesus' love for his disciples by his response to their failure to support him?

3. In verse 42, what is the cup that Jesus asks God to take away? See also Isaiah 51:22 and Revelation 15:7

<sup>Isa 51:22</sup> This is what your Sovereign LORD says, your God, who defends his people: “See, I have taken out of your hand the cup that made you stagger; from that cup, the goblet of my wrath, you will never drink again.

4. What strikes you most about Jesus' prayer?

### **Mark 14:43-52 Jesus Arrested Parallel verses in Mt 26:47-56; Lk 22:47-50; Jn 18:3-11**

Mk 14:43 Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. [<sup>Jn 18:2</sup> Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.] With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

Mk 14:44 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.”

Mk 14:45 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him.

Mt 26:50 Jesus replied, “Friend, do what you came for.”

[<sup>Jn 18:4</sup> Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?”



8. Why did Jesus ask the disciples how many swords they had if he did not want them to use them? What purpose might Peter have thought the swords served? See the line from Isaiah Jesus quoted in the upper room (Luke 22:38).

“But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. <sup>Lk 22:37</sup> It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors (Isaiah 53:12)’; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.”

<sup>Lk 22:38</sup> The disciples said, “See, Lord, here are two swords.” “That is enough,” he replied.

<sup>Isa 53:12</sup> Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, <sup>119</sup> because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

9. Jesus changed from anguish in the Gethsemane (Lk 22:42) to boldness during his arrest (Jn 18:11). How do you account for this change?

### **The Pretense of Jesus’ Trials**

The Sanhedrin had been plotting to murder Jesus shortly after the start of his ministry when he turned the tables of the money changers, healed on the Sabbath, and called God his Father (John 5:18). To accomplish Jesus murder, they violated many of their laws;

1. They met in secret and at night in private homes
2. They pronounced the death penalty without evidence or witnesses
3. They sought false witnesses and false evidence to find a charge to carry the death penalty under Roman law. They ignored the penalty for perjury which, bore the same punishment as the charge against the accused.
4. A capital offense required a two-day trial.
5. Two to three witnesses were required to testify against someone; no one could testify against himself.

The Sanhedrin could not have plotted Jesus’ death with the approval of the High Priests, Annas and Caiaphas. Annas was High Priest from 6–15 AD until the Roman governor deposed him. His son-in-law, Caiaphas, was his successor from AD 18 to 36. However, Annas still had a considerable amount of power, and many thought of him as the real power behind the High Priest office.

**Read the account of Jesus’ Trial Before the Sanhedrin, Mark 14:53-65, Parallel verses in Mt 26:57-68; Lk 22:67-71, Jn 18:12-13**

[Jn 18:12 Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him Jn 18:13 and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Jn 18:14 Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people.]

Mk 14:53 They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law came together.

Mk 14:54 Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

Mk 14:55 The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any.

Mk 14:56 Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

Mk 14:57 Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him:

Mk 14:58 “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.’”

Mk 14:59 Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

Mk 14:60 Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?”

Mk 14:61a But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

[Jn 18:19 Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

Jn 18:20 “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret.

Jn 18:21 Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.”

Jn 18:22 When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby struck him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded.

Jn 18:23 “If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?”]

Mk 14:61b Again, the high priest asked him, “[Mt 26:63 “I charge you under oath by the living God:] Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?”

Mk 14:62 “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Mk 14:63 The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked.

Mk 14:64 “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” They all condemned him as worthy of death.

Mk 14:65 Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy [Mt 26:68 to us, Christ. Who hit you?]” And the guards took him and beat him.

[Jn 18:24 Then Annas sent him, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest.]

10. Mark 14:16 includes the question above all other questions, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?” It is a question that divides some people and brings others together into a new family. Many insist that Jesus never taught he was the Messiah, but only his disciples did after his death. Refer to the following passages about who Jesus said he was.

1. Mark 14:61-62
2. Mark 15:2
3. John 4:25
4. Mt 16:17
5. John 8:58
6. John 10:24-25
7. John 11:25
8. John 14:9

**Mark 14:66-72 Peter Disowns Jesus. Parallel verses in Mt 26:69-75; Lk 22:56-62; Jn 18:16-18, 25-27**

Mk 14:66 While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by.

Mk 14:67 When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. “You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said.

Mk 14:68 But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway.

Mk 14:69 When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.”

Mk 14:70 Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.”

Mk 14:71 He began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.”

Mk 14:72 Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: **“Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.”** And he broke down and wept.

11. Peter was undergoing a trial of his own during the questioning of Jesus. And he was failing despite his prior boldness in defense of Jesus with his sword. What might have been God's purpose for allowing Peter's testing that night?

**Mark 15:1-15 Jesus Before Pilate. Parallel verses in Mt 27:11-26; Lk 23:2, 3, 18-25; Jn 18:29-40**

Mk 15:1 Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law, and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.

Jn 18:29 So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

Jn 18:30 "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."

Jn 18:31 Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." "But we have no right to execute anyone," the Jews objected.

Jn 18:32 This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.

[Jn 18:33 Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him,

Mk 15:2 "Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate. "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.

[Jn 18:34 "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

Jn 18:35 "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

Jn 18:36 Jesus said, **My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."**

Jn 18:37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, **"You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."**

Jn 18:38 "What is truth?" Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him.

Mk 15:3 The chief priests accused him of many things.

Mk 15:4 So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of."

Mk 15:5 But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

Mk 15:6 Now it was the custom at the Feast to release a prisoner whom the people requested.

Mk 15:7 A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising.

Mk 15:8 The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

Mk 15:9 "Do you want me to release to you [Mt 27:17 Jesus who is called Christ] the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, Mk 15:10 knowing it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him.

[Mt 27:19 While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."]

[Lk 23:4 Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”

Lk 23:5 But they insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.”

Lk 23:6 On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean.

Lk 23:7 When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

Lk 23:8 When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle.

Lk 23:9 He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer.

Lk 23:10 The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him.

Lk 23:11 Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate.

Lk 23:12 That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

Lk 23:13 Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people,

Lk 23:14 and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him.

Lk 23:15 Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death.

Lk 23:16 Therefore, I will punish him<sup>h</sup> and then release him.”]

Mk 15:11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

Mk 15:12 “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.

Mk 15:13 “Crucify him!” they shouted.

Mk 15:14 “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

[Mt 27:24 When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!”

Mt 27:25 All the people answered, “Let his blood be on us and on our children!”]

Mk 15:15 Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

12. The historical proof of Pontius Pilate is demonstrated by coins he minted between 26-36 AD, a building stone bearing his name (discovered in 1961), and references by ancient historians Josephus (74, 94 AD), Philo (41AD), and Tacitus (2<sup>nd</sup> century AD). What do we learn about Pilate at the trial of Jesus?

a. John 18:31

- b. Mark 15:2
- c. John 18:36-38
- d. Mark 15:9
- e. Mark 15:14
- f. Mathew 27

13. Why was Pilate so quick to accept Jesus' statement that he was a king?

14. Jesus' trial by Herod is found only in Luke 23:7-15. What was Herod's interest in Jesus?

15. Do you think Herod took Jesus' claim to be king seriously?

**Mark 15:16-20 The Soldiers Mock Jesus. Parallel verses in Mt 27:27-31, Jn 19:1-16**

Mk 15:16 The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers.

Mk 15:17 They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him.

Mk 15:18 And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!"

Mk 15:19 Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him.

Jn 19:4 Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him."

Jn 19:5 When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

Jn 19:6 As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him."

Jn 19:7 The Jews insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."

Jn 19:8 When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid,

Jn 19:9 and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer.

Jn 19:10 "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

Jn 19:11 Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

Jn 19:12 From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."

Jn 19:13 When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha).

Jn 19:14 It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews.

Jn 19:15 But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.

Jn 19:16 Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

Mk 15:20 And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

16. Why did Pilate have Jesus flogged if he believed he was innocent, see John 19:4-5?

17. John 19:7, Let's be clear; what charge was the Jews bringing against Jesus?

18. Pilate's perception of the proceedings moved from contempt and indifferent to fear. How do you explain Pilate's fear of Jesus in verse John 19:7-8?

19. Ultimately, why did Pilate have Jesus crucified?

20. In John 19:11, we see Jesus' complete submission out of love for the Father and humankind. Reflect on his love for you.

## **Closing Prayer by John Baillie**

God, the Father of all mankind, I would bring before You tonight the burden of the world's life. I would join myself to the great scattered company of those who, in every corner of every land, are now crying out to You in their need. Hear us, God, and look in pity upon our manifold necessities, since You alone are able to satisfy all our desires.

Especially do I commend to Your holy keeping:

- All who tonight are far from home and friends
- All who tonight must lie down hungry or cold
- All who suffer pain
- All who are kept awake by anxiety or suspense
- All who are facing danger
- All who must toil or keep watch while others sleep.

Give to them all, I pray, such a sense of Your presence with them as may turn their loneliness into comfort and their trouble into peace.

O most loving God, who in the Person of Your Son Jesus Christ did manifest Your love to man by relieving all manner of suffering and healing all manner of disease, grant Your blessing, I pray, to all who in any corner of the world are serving in Christ's name:

- All ministers of the gospel of Christ
- All social workers
- All missionary workers abroad
- All doctors and nurses who faithfully tend the sick.

Accomplish through them Your great purpose of goodwill to men, and grant them in their own hearts the joy of Christ's most real presence.

And to me also, as I lie down, grant, O gracious Father, the joy of a life surrendered to Christ's service and the peace of sin forgiven through the power of His Cross. Amen.