



57 - The Struck Shepherd - Mark 14.26-32 - Discussion Notes

Introduction

Jesus up until this point in Mark's gospel has been portrayed as strong, powerful and loving. From this point forward until the resurrection, Jesus will be cast in weakness and sorrow. Mark tells his readers that even though the Shepherd will be struck, and the sheep scattered, Jesus will ultimately bring restoration and reconciliation.

Observation/Interpretation

- Read Mark 14:27 Jesus quotes a passage from Zechariah 13:7 about God's Shepherd being struck by a sword. Immediately following this Jesus will come to the garden of Gethsemane where the crushing will begin. Have you ever known someone in your life whom you had always seen as strong, become weak? How did you respond?
- Read Mark 14:27-30 What does Jesus predict that his disciples will do in the near future once He begins to be weak, vulnerable and crushed?
- Read Mark 14:29-31 How does Peter's response to Jesus' prediction contrast with what Jesus said would really happen?

Application

Peter had greatly overestimated the level of his commitment to Jesus, and in the end would himself be a betrayer. Have you ever felt like you can identify with Peter? How? In what ways?

Peter, undoubtedly would be filled with shame & guilt because of his betrayal. Have you ever been bound by shame & guilt? How does the gospel free us from shame & guilt and empower us with a greater motivation to change?

Prayer

Thank God for sending Jesus who was willing to become weak and vulnerable, so that we who are weak and vulnerable can become strong.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.