

The Arrest of the King – Mark 14:43-52

We are continuing our series looking at Mark's Gospel. We are nearing the end of the gospel account and this week we will be in verses 43 to 52 looking at the Arrest of the King.

Jesus was the greatest leader that has ever walked this earth, if he were on Facebook he'd have about 2 billion likes, having had only 3 years of active ministry and starting with 12 misfit disciples, and 2000 years later his popularity is still increasing! So we're going to look a bit about leadership this morning. Why? Because we have been called to follow Jesus, and this call is a call to be like him, to lead. We are all leaders, we are all responsibility for leading our own lives, and our friends and colleagues. We are going to look at 3 leadership lessons, relevant to us all, as we look at Jesus' arrest.

1) Leaders Stand Firm

If you read today's passage in isolation, you could mistakenly assume Jesus had been caught out by this arrest party, if we just start where we did today at verse 43 in the ESV, it says 'Immediately Judas appeared' - as if Jesus had no chance to escape. However, a thorough look at the passage shows that Jesus was not caught off guard, but instead chose to stand firm. Jesus saw his betrayer coming. But he didn't flee, he chose to stand His ground.

God wants us to stand firm when our moments of trial come, when our world seems to fall apart, when we face a crisis, when temptation comes. We will all face crises as we go through life, we will all be battered by waves, the bible says so, but it also says: *Stand firm, let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord.* (1 Corinthians 15:58).

We don't read that Jesus got an answer from God the Father when he pleaded in the Garden that he be able to avoid God's wrath, this must have been pretty confusing, pretty disorientating, had God heard him? Wasn't He powerful enough? How could a God of love, His Father, the Good God not find a way to rescue Jesus from his coming wrath? When waves crash how often are we tempted to get confused, to get disorientated, to doubt God's love, His Goodness, His care? Yet all the fear and anguish of the Garden was seemingly gone as Jesus stood firm before his betrayer; He chose to stand firm.

Q. What challenges and trials do we face? How are we tempted to take the 'easy way' out?

Q. How does Jesus choice to stand firm and face His betrayer inspire us when we see difficult times ahead?

2) Leaders Are to Be Rebels

We have Judas betraying Jesus with a kiss. A large army with swords and clubs. Jesus response – to stand firm. What this passage highlights to us is just how much everyone had misunderstood Jesus. Jesus is not saying He wasn't leading a rebellion; what He is pointing to is that the rulers, chief priests, the elders, Judas, even his disciples had all misunderstood the nature of what Jesus had come to do. They had misunderstood the scale of his rebellion. What we have here is a mismatch in Kingdoms. Jesus' point was that the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom Jesus was bringing, is not of this world, and it can't not be stopped by the sword.

We've been called to carry out the work of Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit whilst He is seated enthroned high above. You can't go and make disciples as we've been called to do unless you rebel against the norms you see around you! You lead by your actions whether you realise it or not, as Christ's ambassadors people are looking at you and seeing whether your faith results in a difference.

Q. What does it mean for a Christian to rebel? What 'norms' do we need to stand firm against?

Q. How does our rebellion against this world honour God? How are we seen to be different?

3) Leaders Trust In God's Word

They could have arrested him at any time, there was plenty of opportunity, but the reason they didn't was because it was all part of God's plan, the nature of His betrayal, His crucifixion and what that would accomplish was all written in Scripture. (v49). Jesus knew this, because He'd studied the scriptures. Jesus may have felt abandoned after his prayer in the garden but he acted on the basis of faith that he knew what was before him was God's plan.

We need to stand on the rock if we are to stand firm when waves crash around us. If we're on sand, if we have no foundation, no truth to anchor us, we'll be knocked down; it's hard to stand when the ground beneath you gives way. We can't stand without standing on the rock of God's word. To lead a rebellion, and live an effective life, to stand firm in the storms, we need to have faith in things that are true, and live accordingly whether we feel like they are true or not.

Q. What are the promises of Scripture that you need to steady you where you are at right now?

Q. What practical ways can we use to hold on to Scripture? How can we stand on the Rock of God's Word?

Read Ephesians 6:10-17