

# Growing Deeper in Mark

## MARK 14.32-42

*For this week's notes, I am once again deeply indebted to David E. Garland's commentary, The NIV Application Commentary: Mark. I will give reference to the page of the commentary from which particular insights come.*

**VERSE 32:** Following the events of the upper room, the foot washing, the last supper, the teach, Jesus takes the disciples to the Mount of Olives, specifically to Gethsemane (which means oil press). Here Jesus will face excruciating pressure "to the point of death" (vs. 34). The oil can come only as the olive is crushed and at Gethsemane Jesus is "crushed for our iniquities" (Is. 53.5).

**VERSES 33-34:** Jesus takes Peter, James, and John a little farther and confides in them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death." What does a disciple say to that? But Jesus does not want them to say anything, he wants them to keep watch. This recalls his teaching to them the last time they were here at Gethsemane (Mk. 13.32-37) when Jesus beseeches them to stay alert to watch! (Garland pg. 541). Often for those in suffering, silent presence, watchful concern is the best ministry.

These were the same three who accompanied Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. Maybe it would be a good exercise for you to read Mark 9.2-13 alongside Mark 14.32-42. What is similar, what is different, what does it tell you about Jesus, what does it tell you about you?

**VERSES 35-36:** This, in my opinion, is the watershed moment. While Satan, the religious leaders, his family, even the disciples each sought to derail Jesus on his journey to the cross, none of those forces really stood a chance. But here, in Gethsemane, Jesus had to face the one person who could derail him...Jesus. This is the point where Jesus confronts the fact that his human nature (Jesus is fully God, fully human) and must decide if his (human) will or his (divine) will would be done. Will he suffer the physical anguish of the beatings, scourging, the crucifying, and the piercing? Would he endure the emotional torture of betrayal, abandonment, hypocrisy, blasphemy, and contempt? Was he willing to experience the agony of spiritual darkness, taking on our sin, being separated from the Father and the Spirit? It was not too late; he could still avoid all of that...except for his love for you. He chose you!

Garland (pg. 540) points out that the 'cup' that Jesus refers to may be the wrath of God's judgment (see Is. 51,17, 21 and Jer. 25.15) which I think is likely. Rather than this cup being "taken from him" Jesus transforms it into a cup of redemption which we celebrate in communion!

**VERSES 37-40:** Peter (who had just pledged he would die for Jesus) and James and John (who confidently told Jesus they could 'drink the cup that [Jesus] drank' in Mk. 10.38) now cannot even stay awake for him. Often the grand and difficult things of following Jesus do not trip us up, but rather the seemingly insignificant, mundane, day-to-day obedience.

Here is another opportunity to compare and contrast two stories. Consider Mk. 4.35-41 alongside Mk. 14.37-42. Who sleeps, who is troubled, which story has the storm quieted, which has the storm intensify?

**VERSE 41:** The Greek word (*apechei*) translated “Enough!” is a term of commerce meaning ‘paid in full’ (Garland pg. 543). In other words, you have paid enough. It seems to me that Jesus is saying to his disciple, “I have given you all I can, taught you all I can teach.” That part of Jesus mission has drawn to a close, now all that is left is for Jesus to go to the cross.

**VERSE 42:** As this season of teaching the disciples draws to a close Jesus says, “Rise! Let us go!” This is a command, but it has the same functional meaning as “Come, follow me” (Mk. 1.17) that marked the initiation of the teaching of the disciples. How have the disciples changed in their roughly 3 years of following Jesus? They certainly don’t have it all figured out, but they are certainly not the same people they were at the beginning of their discipleship. How about you? How have you changed since Jesus first called you to follow him? Are you at a point where you are willing for him to command you to “Rise! Let us go!”