Have confidence in Jesus and learn from him to rely on God rather than on self when tempted or suffering.

Overview

In this week's message, Pastor Lenard covered a long section from chapter 14 of Mark. This portion of Scripture details some of the last interactions Jesus had with His disciples before the cross and His appearance before the council of the high priest and the leadership of the Jewish people. In this passage, we see Peter, James, and John missing the opportunity to minister to Jesus during His distress and forget who he is. We see the betrayal of Judas and the leaders who missed recognizing the Messiah they were supposed to be looking for. We see a young man flee when he could have stood firm and Peter deny the Lord who he rightly called the Christ. Amidst all of this disappointment, we see Jesus. We see our Lord speak words that came to pass proving his trustworthiness. In this passage we see Jesus as far more than an example to follow; we see Him and find hope. To help us in our temptation and suffering Pastor Lenard laid out three themes to point us to confidence in Christ.

Outline: Three Themes

- 1. Listen to Jesus because he's trustworthy: Zechariah 13:7
- 2. Learn from Jesus to rely on God: 1 Peter 2:21-23
- 3. Look to Jesus as your only hope: *Isaiah 53:7*

If we do not abide in prayer, we will abide in temptation. Let this be one aspect of our daily intercession: "God, preserve my soul, and keep my heart and all its ways so that I will not be entangled." When this is true in our lives, a passing temptation will not overcome us. We will remain free while others lie in bondage. – John Owen (1616-1683)

Discussion Questions

- 1. Peter was overconfident and then denied Christ, the young man in linen followed but ran away when his safety was in danger. Reflecting on these stories, can you share a time when you felt hesitant, embarrassed, or uncertain about expressing your faith in Christ? What did you learn from that experience?
- 2. We see a very human side of Jesus as he prays in the Garden. Jesus prays: "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." How does Jesus' prayer and the rest of this passage help you build confidence and hope in him?
- 3. The very brief mention of the young man in the linen who fled when confronted challenges us to consider how will we react when put on the spot for Jesus.
 - a. What keeps you from being bold in your faith? How does that affect your walk?
 - b. What steps can you take to grow in trust and reliance on Jesus, especially when temptation and trials come?
 - c. How can your reliance in Christ be an encouragement to others?
- 4. What else stood out to you in the sermon or the passage?

Theological Terms:

Docetism: An early Christian heresy that gave a false view of Jesus humanity. The view held that Jesus only seemed to have a human body. This is false, from scripture we hold that Jesus was fully God and fully man. Jesus experienced all that we read about in his life as a man. Jesus faced all these disappointments and trials as a man.