

The Son of Man Is Betrayed

Mark 14:27-52

by Don Falkos

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Jesus said to his disciples, "You are all going to desert me. But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

Peter objected, "Everyone else might desert you, but I won't."

Jesus replied, "Before the rooster crows twice today, you will deny three times that you even know me."

Peter was emphatic, "Even if I have to die, I will never desert you."

At Gethsemane, Jesus said, "My soul is disturbed to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch."

He went off a short distance, fell to his knees, and prayed. "Dearest Father, you can do anything. Take away this cup of suffering that I'm drinking from. But don't do what I want. Do what you want."

Jesus went back to his disciples and found them asleep. "Couldn't you keep watch for even an hour? The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

Three times he went off to pray, and each time, when he came back, his followers were asleep. Then he called out, "The time has come! The Son of Man is betrayed!"

Just then Judas, one of the twelve apostles, arrived with a crowd of people. He came up to Jesus, called him "Teacher," and kissed him. It was a prearranged signal. Jesus was arrested. A bystander picked up a sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

Jesus said, "Am I some sort of dangerous criminal that you come after me with swords and clubs? I was with you every day, teaching in the temple. Why didn't you arrest me there? Still, the scriptures must be fulfilled."

All of Jesus' followers deserted him and ran away. One young man, when he was seized, slipped out of his tunic and ran away naked.