

That Treacherous Kiss

~Mark 14:43–52~

Six responders to the ultimate moment of truth:

1. The hypocritical betrayer (vv. 43–45)

Mark 3:19
Luke 6:16
Matthew 26:14-16
John 12:6
John 6:70-71
John 18:1–2

2. The duplicitous crowd (v. 43b, 46)

John 18:3

3. The impulsive leader (v. 47)

John 18:10
John 18:4–8
Luke 22:51
Matthew 26:53

4. The resolute Lord (vv. 48–49)

Zechariah 12:2
Isaiah 52–53

5. The cowardly disciples (v. 50)

Zechariah 13:7

6. The shameful deserter (vv. 51–52)

R. T. France writes: “The ignominious flight of this anonymous sympathiser serves in the narrative context to underline the complete failure of Jesus’ friends to support him when the moment came. Apart from his captors, Jesus leaves Gethsemane alone.”¹

Abraham Kuruville writes: “it’s one of the least understood narratives in the entire New Testament. Scholars have described the account as strange, bizarre, confusing, enigmatic, and whimsical.”

Again, Kuruville is helpful here: “At one time these disciples had left all to follow him. But now, in the abandonment of even the shirt off this young man’s back, Mark shows his readers that the disciples have left all to get away from Jesus. The writer displays this naked runaway as symbolic of the total abandonment of Jesus by the band of disciples who fled to escape the consequences of association with him.”

Take-Aways

¹ R. T. France, *The Gospel of Mark: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 2002), 597.

- There is an eternal difference between momentary weakness of faith and determined rejection of Christ.
- Our Savior's desire to be with us eternally drove Him to be utterly abandoned temporarily.
- They chose shame over fidelity to Jesus.
- Cherish the faithfulness of Jesus, acknowledge the fickleness of our hearts as His followers, evade the finality of apostasy.