

Mark 14:26-72

10th May 2009

Something bigger than the entire world is happening in this chapter: ‘the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners’ (14:41) . . . ‘the Son of Man is seated at the right hand of power’ (14:62).

At last, the irruption of the kingdom of God on earth! How will humans respond? How do you respond? What is your role in God’s kingdom?

The entire history of our response to the kingdom of God is played out in this chapter. It’s a sobering response. But it could be otherwise – if we all would break down and weep!

- 1) Jesus predicts that his closest friends, the disciples, will ‘all fall away’ (v. 27). Peter objects: ‘I will not’ (v. 29). Yet in the end, Peter joins the others in denying Jesus (vv. 66-72). Why?

- 2) The dialogue between Jesus and his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane is very telling (vv. 32-42), revealing as much about us as it does the disciples. The biggest moment in history has arrived, the irruption of the kingdom of God, and the disciples are sleeping. Why?

- 3) What does the strange account of the naked man (vv. 51-52) add to the story? Hint: interpret these verses in the light of verse 50.

- 4) If it had been you in the courtyard of the high priest (verses 66-71), how would you have responded to the inquiries of the servant girl? Why would you have responded that way?

- 5) What happened in Peter when ‘he broke down and wept’? (v. 72) Does the same thing ever happen in you? Does it need to? Why? Bonus question: what will happen to the person who breaks down and weeps?