

**This Week's Text:** Mark 14:53-72– Christ Atones for Our Fear

**Next Week:** Mark 15:1-20

**I. Fear of Power (53, 66-68)**

- a. Jesus Stood Before the Powerful (53)
- b. Peter Fell Before the Powerless (54, 66-68)

**II. Fear of Persecution (53-55, 64-65, 69-70a)**

- a. Jesus Was Persecuted by Unjust Oppression (53-55)
- b. Jesus Was Persecuted by Unrestrained Violence (65)
- c. Jesus Was Persecuted by the Unruly Crowd (55-61)
  - i. In False Accusations (55-56)
  - ii. In Forged Accusations (57-59)
  - iii. In Forced Accusations (60-61)
- d. Peter Was Persecuted by His Own Unwillingness to Commit (54-55, 69-70a)

**III. Fear of Proclamation (60-62, 71-72)**

- a. Jesus Stood and Proclaimed the Truth (61-62)
  - i. Jesus Proclaimed Himself as Savior (62a)
  - ii. Jesus Proclaimed Himself as Son of God (62b)
  - iii. Jesus Proclaimed Himself as Son of Man (62c)
  - iv. Jesus Proclaimed Himself as the Seated Priest (62d)
- b. Peter Fell and Profaned the Truth (70-72)
- c. We Must Remember the Promised Truth (14:27, 16:7)

**Corporate Reading Guide:**

Read the other Gospel's accounts of the Jewish Trial and Peter's Denial. Meditate on what fears you would have faced – and how Christ offers comfort. (Matthew 26:57-75; Luke 22:54-71; John 18:12-27).

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What impacted you and/or what did you learn from our study of Mark this week?
2. What impacted you and/or what did you learn about the Gospel? What did you learn about **God's** character, **Man's** sinfulness and need, **Christ's** atonement and how He meets our need, or God's call on us to **Respond**?
3. Tacitus, the Roman historian, said Christians were killed on the charge of "hating the human race." What similar charges do we face as Christians today that we are tempted to fear?
4. Read Mark 14:53 and 66-68. What truths about God and the Gospel can give us hope in our fear as we stand before powerful people in this life?
5. Read Mark 14:53-55 and 64-65. Which aspect of persecution that Jesus faced on your behalf most impacted you, and why?
6. Read Mark 14:60-62 and 70-72. What does our fear of proclaiming Jesus reveal about how much we really believe the claims Jesus made?
7. Read Mark 14:27 and 16:7. How does the promised truth of restoration give us hope when we fail?