



Prayer guide: Mark 14:26-31 (Denied)

1. The Power of Praise

“And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives...” Mark 14:26

Before Jesus left the passover meal for Gethsemane, He led His disciples in a hymn, most likely from Psalm 115-118. He chose praise despite the denial, betrayal, suffering, and cross He knew lay ahead—because He understood the power in praise regardless of circumstances.

Ask yourself:

- How likely am I to choose praise in the midnights of life?
- Consider the midnights or dark nights of my soul. Did I whine and complain or choose nevertheless praise? How might praise have made a difference?
- How might praise make a difference in my current difficulties?

Take Action:

- Take a few minutes to read through the four psalms and Acts 16:19-26.
- Spend some time reading one of the psalms aloud and praise God as you pray...for His gracious provision, boundless love, unfailing grace.

2. The Prophecies and Promises

“And Jesus said to them, ‘You will all fall away, because it is written, ‘I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.’ But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.” Mark 14:27

Jesus told the disciples of his eventual death and resurrection repeatedly during his time with them. Many alone heard, understood, and put action to her understanding. The disciples, instead, rejected any attempt to talk about his impending death. They didn't understand and didn't really want to know.

Ask yourself:

- How well do I know the words of Jesus?
- How often do I knowingly ignore His words?
- How have I failed to heed the truth I know by not putting it into action?

Take action:

- Ask God to reveal to you how you might put the words of this passage into practice in your life.
- Embrace His promise to go before you in order to meet with you. Set aside additional

time to meet with Jesus.

- Rather than meeting Jesus with an agenda of your own device, allow His Word to speak to you in life-changing ways.

3. The Protest

“But Peter said to Him, ‘Even though all may fall away, yet I will not.’” Mark 14:28

Peter overestimated his commitment, his dedication, his obedience. “Not me, Jesus!” He went from a profession of undying love to complete denial in a few short hours and we can, too. How?

Overconfidence in self/spiritual pride
Lack of prayer
Failure to heed God’s Word
Hanging with the wrong crowd

Ask yourself:

- Does spiritual pride pose a danger for me?
- Do I neglect prayer and time with Jesus?
- Do I fail to obey the truth I know?
- Do I spend more time with people who don’t know Jesus than with those who do?
- Betrayal always attacks up at our point of weakness. Where is **my** point of weakness?

Take action:

- If the answer to any of the questions above is yes, stop now to repent of your sin.
- Take a careful look at your daily schedule and adjust it to include an unbreakable appointment with our Lord and in His Word.

4. The Prodigal

“And He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, ‘Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?’” Mark 14:37

We rarely consider Peter a prodigal, even if only for a season, but his failure to pray left him weak and ill-equipped for his own trial, now only hours away. His protestations of “Not me, Lord,” soon gave way to, “I do not know this man you are talking about!”

Ask yourself:

- How often have I felt prompted to pray but continued with what I was doing rather than stop to pray?
- How much time did I spend in prayer this past week? How much of my prayer time was spent talking and how much time was spent listening?

Take action:

- Rather than allow the sin of prayerlessness to reap a harvest in your life, stop now to

pray for those you know who need Jesus.

- Make a prayer list, either on a card or in a notebook. Record the dates you pray and the answer God sends.
- Be intentional.

5. The Prescription:

“If My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

When nations or personal lives are in a mess, there is a simple prescription:
humility+repentance=freedom+restoration

Ask yourself:

- Am I as close to the Lord as I was when I first came to Him?
- Have I gone back to any of my “old” ways?
- How far have I drifted away?

Take action:

- Begin with humility (“Not my brother or my sister, but it’s me, O Lord...”)
- Repent sincerely (“Forgive me and have mercy on me, the sinner.”)
- Thank God for His promise of restoration and healing.
- Commit to stay close to Him and make plans to do so.

6. The Potential

“But go, tell His disciples and Peter, He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He said to you.” Mark 16:7

Failure is never final—unless we allow it. Despite Peter’s betrayal, Jesus specifically called for him to return. *“Tell Peter.”* Jesus waited in Galilee. Restoration depended on Peter’s willingness to stop wallowing in his grief and shame and meet Jesus where He waited.

Ask yourself:

- Who do I know who’s “fallen away” from their faith and is far from Jesus? How might I show them grace in order to make their return to faith easier?
- Is there some area in which I’ve fallen away? An area in which I need repentance?

Take Action:

- Pride is dangerous and destructive. Repent of and shun it.
- Our hearts are far more wicked than we know. Question your own heart first.
- We need to take Christ at His word. Be a hearer and a doer.
- Our influence over others can be deadly. Live like a disciple.
- Apply grace to those who have stumbled. Encourage them to come back to our Lord.

- Failure doesn't have to be final...so turn back to Him and welcome those who do.

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