



# Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



## Episode 120 - All Alone (Mark 14:32-72)

### Facing the Hard Times All Alone

Describe a tough situation you had to face all alone.

- Why is it so hard to be all alone?
- What does that have to do with God saying, ... "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him"? (Genesis 2:18b).

When Jesus went to pray in the garden He asked His disciples to stay awake and watch with Him, but in sleep they abandoned Him, leaving Him all alone.

Prayer seems like it should be so easy, so calming, especially when you can confidently call God your "Daddy." But sometimes prayer is like a marathon wrestling match. It can be so extremely painful, difficult and exhausting, especially when you are staring straight down the barrel of life's toughest situations: job loss, an unexpected divorce or the death of a loved one. We can't even imagine the barrel pointed at Jesus: God's wrath for the sins of all people of all time.

- What makes praying so difficult in those times?
- The disciples escaped their grief in sleep. What escapes do you find yourself making in such times?
- What lessons have you learned from watching Jesus pray? What have you learned from your own prayers?
- Describe the good things God has brought out of a situation where you prayed for something and He answered, "No."

### Alone in His Arrest and Trial

When the temple police arrive to arrest Jesus, one of His disciples puts up resistance. But when Peter's swordsmanship is totally ineffectual, the disciples quickly flee for their lives, leaving Jesus all alone.

- Describe a time when you abandoned a friend or your friends abandoned you.
- What makes that so painful?

Jesus then faced the Jewish leaders who served as His prosecutors and judges and who would have been His hangmen, if they had their way. For the Jewish leaders the ends justified the means that were necessary to reach those ends, even when that involved an illegal night trial and false witnesses. Jesus needed to be dead at whatever cost. They were convinced it was best for the nation—and certainly for them.

- How much of their actions were motivated by revenge for the way they had been humiliated by Jesus?
- Where do you see people justifying shady actions by their good intentions?
- What's the problem with such actions?

Yet, God works through their injustice to justify His people. And His purposes are worked not only through the unfairness of the Jewish trial or Pilate's hand-washing; the Father is even willing to lay all our sins on His own innocent Son so the guilty may go free, even as His perfect Son goes to His death.

- How can remembering Jesus' sufferings help when we face injustice in our lives?

### **Peter's last Stand**

It sure didn't turn out to be much of a stand. Sure, Peter was brave enough to sneak into the high priest's courtyard, but he certainly wasn't a brave defender of Jesus. When Jesus was led from the high priest's palace to face Pontius Pilate, He watched Peter's last denial—complete with curses and oaths.

- Discuss the pain Jesus might have suffered hearing Peter's forceful denial.
- How would this intensify the isolation Jesus already felt?
- What are some different ways we deny Jesus by our words and actions?
- How does it encourage and comfort you to know Jesus died for each time you deny Him or abandon a friend?