

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for January 21, 2018**

**Mark 14:27-31**  
**The Sheep Will Scatter**

I. Jesus' predictions (14:27-28)

- Jesus continues to show absolute sovereign control over these final moments
  - A. The prediction of scattering  
*27 And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away,*
  - Jesus has predicted His arrest, death, resurrection, betrayal, and now—His abandonment by His own disciples
  - "You will all fall away" (ESV, NASB, NIV)
    - Mark 4:16-17 "And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. 17 And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away."
    - The loyalty of the disciples would be challenged that very night
  - "All of you will be made to stumble" (NKJV)
    - Mark 6:3 "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him."
    - Like the people of Jesus' hometown in Nazareth, the disciples would be offended at Jesus and His path of suffering
    - The disciples were neither able nor willing to go down that same path of suffering at the moment
    - "The emphasis in verse 27, however, falls on the offense which Jesus will cause the disciples, for this is the element in the prediction that is seized upon by Peter in his bold affirmation of absolute loyalty (verses 29, 31). 'To be offended' at Jesus is the opposite of believing and delighting in him. It implies the desire to be dissociated from him because too close an association with Jesus invites the treatment he receives. Jesus' word emphasizes once again that every time he speaks of his passion, he provokes crisis for the disciples."<sup>1</sup>

B. The prediction from the Scriptures

*for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'*

- Jesus possessed knowledge of the future as well as Scriptural insight
- He was citing a prophecy from Zechariah 13:7

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<sup>1</sup> Lane, 511.

- Zechariah 13:7 “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me,’ declares the LORD of hosts. ‘Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones.’”
- Who is the shepherd?
  - Just reading Zechariah could be hard to tell
  - Since we have Jesus’ words and interpretation, it makes it easier
  - The shepherd is Jesus
- What do we learn about this shepherd based upon Zechariah 13:7?
  - He is identified as God’s shepherd (“my shepherd”)
  - He is a close associate of God
    - He is God’s “peer”
    - “Fellow (*amit*) - this word is used of ‘an associate, an equal, one who shares the nature of another.’ The eleven other occurrences are always used of a man who is a brother Israelite. This word in modern Hebrew means, ‘colleague, comrade.’ This shepherd is one who participates or shares in the Divine nature.”<sup>2</sup>
- What else must we note from Zechariah 13:7?
  - It is God’s plan and will to strike down His Shepherd
  - “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd... Strike the shepherd”
  - Isaiah 53:10 “Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief...”
  - Disciples’ view of God’s Shepherd was different
    - Ezekiel 34:23-24 “And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”
    - In fact, shepherds are supposed to gather sheep, not allow them to scatter (“like sheep without a shepherd”)
- What does Jesus emphasize from Zechariah 13:7?
  - The sheep will scatter
  - Not only did Jesus know what was in the hearts of men, He knew the Scriptures
  - The Scriptures foretold this reality
  - The disciples are not ready for this level of commitment and loyalty
  - They are still ashamed to an extent
  - These disciples are not ready to be mocked and ridiculed
  - These disciples are not ready to be arrested
  - These disciples are not ready to be put on trial for why they are preaching the gospel
  - These disciples are not ready to die for their faith in Christ
  - These disciples are still weak and immature
  - More accurately, these disciples are powerless without God’s Spirit

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<sup>2</sup> Messianic Theology Class Notes, William Varner, 69.

### C. The prediction of the supernatural

28 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”

- “But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”
  - Jesus prophesied His resurrection, yet again
  - “For the fifth time in the Gospel Jesus predicts his resurrection (8:31; 9:9; 9:31; 10:34).”<sup>3</sup>
  - Jesus displayed His foreknowledge and sovereignty by predicting His abandonment
  - Jesus now gives hope by promising His resurrection and reunion with the disciples in Galilee
  - Jesus will actually meet them in Galilee to spend time with His disciples after His death and resurrection
  - Though there will be a scattering, there will eventually be a regathering
    - “There is a satisfying symmetry in vv. 27 and 28: the ‘striking’ of the shepherd results in the scattering of the flock, but his resurrection will result in their regathering.”<sup>4</sup>
  - But of course, the disciples fail to appreciate the resurrection, and focus only upon the death prediction

### II. Peter’s pride (14:29)

29 Peter said to him, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.”

- Peter attempts to display his commitment yet again
  - Peter has been bold and quick to speak before
  - In Mark 8, he was first commended then rebuked
- Peter’s commitment sounds arrogant since he compares himself to the other disciples
- “I will not” in ESV is literally, “not I” in the Greek
  - “They will all stumble BUT not I”
- This arrogance and pride is not just in Peter’s comparison of himself with the others
- Peter’s pride is evident in light of what Jesus just said!
- Jesus was not just predicting the future (which, by the way, Jesus is pretty good at doing)
- Jesus was interpreting Scripture!
  - Is Peter this proud, to challenge Jesus’ understanding of Scripture!?
  - “He will prove Jesus to be a false prophet and inveighs against any suggestion that he will wilt under pressure. Peter disputes Jesus’ word in a spirit of rivalry

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<sup>3</sup> David E. Garland, Mark, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996), 530.

<sup>4</sup> France, 577.

and must regard himself as a Triton among minnows. He insists that he will prove himself more trustworthy than the rest, who, he implies, probably will fall away.”<sup>5</sup>

### III. Jesus’ precise prediction (14:30)

30 And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.”

- Yet again, Jesus uses this moment to show more of His foreknowledge and sovereignty
- Jesus prophesies even more details of what will happen in these final moments of His life
  - Jesus even prophesies specifics about what He will not directly be involved in
- Jesus prophesies the threefold denial of this most brave and committed disciple
  - This information is directed at Peter
  - “Jesus singled him out to reveal to him that his failure would be greater than that of the rest.”<sup>6</sup>
- The fact that Jesus puts an immediate time frame on this prediction, shows that He is serious about His words
  - Night had fallen, and Jesus said that Peter’s denials will happen before daylight
  - “The time before Peter’s fall was short.”<sup>7</sup>
- Is there harmonization necessary with the rooster crowing twice?
  - Matthew 26:34 “Jesus said to him, ‘Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.’”
  - “In Jewish reckoning of time, “cock crow” was the third watch of the night, ending at 3:00 a.m., which was when roosters typically began to. Mark, alone of the gospels, indicates that the cock crowed two times (v. 72).”<sup>8</sup>
  - Mark’s gospel highlights Peter’s perspective and thus gives even more information about the rooster crowing twice since Peter would remember this event vividly.
  - Before the night is over, Peter will deny Jesus three times
- These three denials will reveal the current caliber of Peter’s heart and commitment
  - “The term ‘deny’ (*aparnese*) is a synonym for ‘being ashamed’ (*epaischynomai* cf. 8:38). It is also the opposite of ‘confess’ (*homologeo* cf. Matt. 10:32-33 and John 1:20).”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> David E. Garland, Mark, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996), 531.

<sup>6</sup> D. Edmond Hiebert, The Gospel of Mark: An Expository Commentary (Greenville, SC: Bob Jones University Press, 1994), 413.

<sup>7</sup> D. Edmond Hiebert, The Gospel of Mark: An Expository Commentary (Greenville, SC: Bob Jones University Press, 1994), 413.

<sup>8</sup> John MacArthur Jr., ed., The MacArthur Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 1495.

<sup>9</sup> Stein, 655.

- Mark 8:34 “And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”
- “The reference to a threefold denial indicates the thoroughness with which he will refuse to acknowledge Jesus and the inescapability of the charge that he was offended because of his master.”<sup>10</sup>

#### IV. Peter’s proud promise (14:31)

31 But he said emphatically, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And they all said the same.

- “But he said emphatically, ‘If I must die with you, I will not deny you.’”
  - Peter did not simply respond with sincerity
  - Peter responded emphatically
  - Peter has challenged Jesus’ knowledge of the future and Peter has challenged Jesus’ interpretation of Scripture!
  - Peter thinks he is displaying his commitment by stating that he will die, if necessary
    - Peter thinks that he is committed to a level that Jesus does not even realize yet
    - This also indicates that there was some acknowledgment on the part of the disciples that Jesus was going to suffer and die
  - Denial is not an option for Peter’s mindset
    - “*Ou me*” is the strongest negative in the Greek language
- “And they all said the same.”
  - Peter’s boldness functions as some sort of peer pressure for all the other disciples to assert their commitment to Christ
  - Obviously, their commitment to Christ would falter that night
  - Just like the commitment of any human being without the active working of God’s Spirit to keep them close to God
  - 2 Timothy 1:7 “For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”

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<sup>10</sup> Lane, 513.