

## WARM-UP

- How dependent are you on online maps for direction? Briefly explain.
- Where do you go to recharge whenever you feel tired or need to clear your thoughts? How did you discover this place?
- Recall a time when someone made a bold prediction and then saw it come to pass? How did you feel?

**WORD** *27And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' 28But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."* **MARK 14:27-28**

Jesus entered our world set apart with a clear mission—to redeem us from sin by giving His life. Before He fulfilled this, Jesus prepared His disciples for the things that were about to happen. He told them that *all* of them would *fall away*. But with this news came the assurance that He would go ahead of them and meet with them after He was *raised up*. Despite their best intentions, Jesus' disciples failed Him. Like His disciples, we too can fail Jesus. And just as Jesus extended grace and forgiveness to them despite their failures, He offers the same to us. Today, we will look at how Jesus was set apart so that we may be reconciled with God, enabling us to live for Him from a place of grace—the finished work on the cross.

# 1 | Jesus was set apart as the promised Shepherd who fulfilled the will of the Father.

*<sup>27</sup>And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' . . ." <sup>36</sup>And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."* **MARK 14:27, 36**

Jesus prophesied the scattering of His disciples, quoting Zechariah 13:7 to highlight His fulfillment as the promised Shepherd. This declaration emphasized Jesus' role in God's plan, foreshadowing His sacrifice. When Jesus prayed before His capture, He addressed God intimately as *Abba, Father*, expressing His submission to the Father's will despite His human apprehension. By surrendering to God's plan and accepting the cup of suffering, Jesus demonstrated His obedience by sacrificing His life for us. Amidst challenges and hardship, we can rest assured that Jesus, our Good Shepherd, went to the greatest lengths, including sacrificing His own life, for our good. How has this truth helped you persevere in faith during a critical season in your life?

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## 2 | Jesus was set apart as the Shepherd who lovingly warns, guides, and restores us.

<sup>28</sup>"But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." . . .

<sup>38</sup>"Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." **MARK 14:28, 38**

(Read also **MARK 16:6-7**.)

Even though He knew that His disciples would fail Him, Jesus showed His concern for their spiritual well-being. He informed Peter of his three denials and yet prayed that his faith would not fail (Luke 22:31-34). When Jesus went up to Gethsemane and instructed His disciples to *watch and pray*, He caught them sleeping. In the same way, Jesus knows how we could fail Him. And just like how He restored Peter and the rest of the disciples through the women who saw the empty tomb (Mark 16:6-7), Jesus will remain steadfast in His commitment to be our loving Shepherd. Despite our shortcomings, He will lovingly guide and restore His flock. His unending love and grace remain constant, and He is calling us to heed His guidance, remain watchful, and rely on prayer to navigate life's challenges. What does 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 say about the grace of God?

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Despite facing suffering, Jesus did not retaliate but instead entrusted Himself to God. Through His sacrificial death on the cross, He bore our sins, offering redemption and healing for our souls (1 Peter 2:22-25). As we follow Jesus, we are enabled, by His grace, to live set apart for Him, imitating His humility and willingness to endure suffering to fulfill His purpose. Jesus guides, protects, and cares for us as our Shepherd and overseer, leading us toward salvation and eternal life.

## APPLICATION

- In what area of your life is there chaos and uncertainty? How would you apply what you learned today in this situation?
- Is there an area of failure in the past that still haunts you today? Talk to someone you trust about this. Allow Jesus to bring healing and restoration upon you, and enable you to live the victorious life you have in Him.
- How can you encourage someone to allow Jesus to guide them this week?

## PRAYER

- Thank God for sending Jesus to be our loving Shepherd. Ask God for the grace to enable you to follow Jesus' example and walk in obedience.
- Ask that you would know Jesus more as the loving Shepherd. Pray for the grace to overcome any trial or temptation through His strength.
- Pray for people in your circle of friends and family who need God's guidance in specific areas in their lives. Ask God to open doors for you to minister to them this week.



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