**Anguish & Abandonment**

“Understanding the theology of suffering and abandonment.”

**Text**: **Mark 14:26-52**, “**26**And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. **27**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.’ **28**But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” **29**Peter said to him, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.” **30**And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” **31**But he said emphatically, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And they all said the same… *In your own bible read through* **verse 52**. **English Standard Version**

*Although you may agonize over your friends abandoning you*, *you must*…

**Point #1: Recognize \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! vv.26-31**

*Although Jesus agonized over his suffering and temporary abandonment by God, you must*…

**Point #2**: **Understand** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ! **vv.32-42**

*Although the apostles fled and abandoned Jesus during his arrest, you must*…

**Point #3**: **Recognize** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ! **vv.43-52**

**Corollary Verses**: Zechariah 13:7; Mark 10:39; Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:20; Psalm 88:14-18, 83:1, 73:23-26; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13; (repeat) 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:13; 1 John 2:19; John 15:5; and Philippians 1:6.

**Application Questions**

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today’s sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to the questions listed below will assist you in gaining a better understanding of the point of this passage. Please be prepared to discuss your answers with your Home Fellowship Groups.

1. Read **Genesis 37:22-28**, **29**; **2 Samuel 15:1-4**; and **Job 30:20-31** then answer the following questions. Consider Joseph, David, and Job. How do you think these men felt when being abandoned? In what ways can you relate to them? What blessings came from being abandoned?
2. Read **Deuteronomy 31:8**; **Hebrews 13:5**; **Matthew 28:20**; and **Psalm 94:14** then answer the following questions. How does God’s attribute of “faithfulness” relate to these passages? Why can’t God act against His own nature, and how come He cannot contradict Himself (see **Numbers 23:19,** **Malachi 3:6**, & **John 10:35**)? How do these passages provide you with confidence and assurance regarding these promises of God?
3. Read **Psalm 88:14-18**; **Psalm 83:1**; and **Job 30:20-31** then answer the following questions. Why is it important to acknowledge how we feel? Is it okay to feel abandoned by God? How can you ensure that your subjective feelings are tempered by the objective truth of God’s word?
4. Read **2 Corinthians 5:21**; **Galatians 3:13** and **Romans 3:23-25a** then answer the following questions. How do these passages enhance your understanding of what Christ actually did on the cross at Calvary? Why was it absolutely essential for Jesus to become both “sin” and a “curse” for us? How did his sacrifice on the cross satisfy the righteous requirements of God law?
5. **Bonus question**: Who potentially was the young man who ran away from the temple guards and the Roman soldiers in the garden of Gethsemane in Mark 14:52? How can you support your answer?