

Recap of 5/12/24 message by Pastor Steve (Mark 14:27-31):

As they move toward the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus tells His disciples that they will all fall away from Him because it was written in Zechariah 13:7 that when the Shepherd is struck down, the sheep will scatter. The Shepherd was an understood metaphor for the Messiah and sheep was a commonly understood metaphor for God's followers (see books of Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Micah). Jesus is saying that this prophecy will be fulfilled on the night of His betrayal. We see fulfilled prophecy used throughout the Gospels, Acts, and the Epistles as a major line of evidence that Jesus is the promised Messiah. The plethora of fulfilled prophecy gives us confidence that Jesus is exactly who He says He is.

Along with the prophecy of the disciples' falling away, Jesus offers encouragement by saying that after He is raised, He will go before them to Galilee. This is the fifth time in the book of Mark that we see Jesus speak of His resurrection. In effect, He is telling His followers that though the night and next couple days will be extremely difficult, they can trust that He will rise again, and they will be reunited with Him shortly. The Bible is full of encouragement for us. Do we stand on the encouraging promises of God or do we, like the disciples in this instance, ignore the good as we focus on the bad. Philippians 4:8-9 tells us to focus on the good.

Well, instead of hearing the encouragement and asking God for strength to get through the difficulty, Peter and the rest of the disciples argue with Jesus and say that they will never fall away. Arguing with God is never a winning strategy and is the result of focusing on ourselves and our plan instead of accepting God's plan. We need to prayerfully search our heart to see in what areas we argue with God. Maybe it's regarding sexuality or sexual activity. Maybe it's regarding a habit we don't want to give up. Maybe it's regarding roles in our relationships. Maybe it's regarding our finances. Regardless, let's purpose to stop arguing. Instead, follow God. Accept His ways and His thinking. When we do, we'll find joy and peace in Him which eludes us when we argue with God.