



## Why People Abandon Jesus

Mark 14:43-72

### **Discussion Questions & Practice**

1. Where did you most see yourself in this passage — Judas, the disciple with the sword, the religious leaders, or Peter? Why?
2. When have you experienced the tension between “*the Jesus you expected*” and *the Jesus who showed up*?
3. What fear most often drives you when following Jesus becomes costly —loss of control, loss of position, or loss of safety?
4. Where in your life right now are you “following at a distance”?
5. When fear tightens in your life, what does self-preservation look like for you? (Withdrawal? Control? Anger? Silence? Image management?)
6. What does it mean to you that Jesus does not waver when everyone else does?
7. If perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18), what would trusting Christ’s faithfulness look like in one specific situation this week?

## **This Week's Practice**

### **Purpose: "Naming the Fear, Receiving the Faithfulness"**

This practice aims to provide a quiet space for asking the questions you posed at the end of your sermon.

**Time:** 20–30 minutes

**Setting:** Quiet room, Bible open to Mark 14

### **Step 1 — Slow Down**

Sit quietly. Take 3–5 slow breaths.

Invite the Holy Spirit to search your heart.

You may simply pray:

"Lord Jesus, where is fear shaping my obedience?"

### **Step 2 — Read Slowly**

Read Mark 14:43–72 slowly.

As you read, notice:

- Where do you feel emotional resonance?
- Which character unsettles you?
- Which reaction feels familiar?

Do not analyze yet. Just notice.

### **Step 3 — Ask the Four Questions**

Journal your responses to these:

1. Where am I tempted to distance myself from Jesus?
2. Where does obedience feel too costly?
3. Where does His authority threaten my plans?
4. Where are my expectations of Jesus colliding with reality?

Now go one layer deeper: What am I afraid of losing?

Control? Position? Safety? Approval? Comfort?

Name it clearly.

Fear loses power when it is named.

#### **Step 4 — Receive the Gospel**

Now read this line from your sermon slowly:

“Our faithfulness is not the foundation of this relationship. He is.”

Then read **1 John 4:18**:

“Perfect love casts out fear.”

Sit with this truth:

Jesus does not distance Himself from you.

Pray:

“Jesus, I release my fear of \_\_\_\_\_.

Teach me to trust Your faithfulness.”

Do not rush this.

Let silence do its work.

#### **Step 5 — One Concrete Step**

Ask: “What is one small act of obedience that would move me from distance toward trust this week?”

Make it specific.

- A conversation.
- A confession.
- A surrender.
- A boundary.
- A step of courage.

Formation happens in small obedience.