

DISCUSSION IDEAS  
**HE IS FAITHFUL WHEN WE ARE NOT**

Mark 14.22-52

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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**THE CONTEXT:** Mark 14:22-52.

As you read Mark 14:22-52, notice the amount of space Mark gives to the following:

the announcement that all the disciples will abandon Jesus (vv. 26-31);  
    the failure of the disciples to watch and pray (vv. 32-42) and finally,  
    the betrayal and abandonment of Jesus by His disciples (vv. 43-52).

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: JESUS PLANNED FOR THE RESTORATION OF HIS FOLLOWERS.**

Compare verse 27 with verse 28.

How many would fall away?

What does v. 28 imply about Jesus' planned forgiveness?

Discuss the love and faithfulness of Jesus as shown here.

Compare Romans 8:31-39.

Relate this to John 15:12-17.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: WHAT PART DOES "DESERVING" PLAY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS?**

Have you ever felt that your acceptance before God was based on your actions?

Read Romans 5:6-11 carefully.

Verse 6: "while we were".... what? And what did God do?

Verse 10: "while we were".... what? And what did God do?

Look at Titus 3:3-7.

How much did our actions contribute to acceptance before God?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: IF IT DOES NOT DEPEND ON MY ACTIONS TO GAIN SALVATION, HOW COULD IT DEPEND ON ME TO REMAIN SAVED?**

Back to Romans 8:35-39, what is the clear teaching here about the power of God's love and faithfulness?

♦ **FOR MEDITATION: THE FAITHFULNESS OF JESUS.**

As you pray this week, dwell on the truth of how faithful Jesus is, in spite of our unfaithfulness.

Consider Hebrews 13:5-6 and compare that to Hebrews 13:8.

Look at what David says about the Love of God as he reminds Israel of God's faithfulness in Psalm 136.

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♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

**Ask God to keep us focused on His priorities.**

**Ask Him to help us to have unshakable confidence in His faithfulness.**

**Ask Him to us sort out Truth from distorted teachings and feelings.**

**Ask Him to help us live out His agape LOVE, both for our fellow believers, and for those who reject or ignore Him.**

**Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there.**

**Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Baranganan Island.**

**Pray for encouragement for Benders and Ingvoldstads. It is a VERY hot season right now. Ask God for protection from injuries and from sickness.**

**Pray for Eddie, as he grows in Christ and takes on greater responsibilities on Baranganan Island.**

**Thank God for Seth, who insisted on sharing his testimony openly and in person (not videotaped), even though he is very shy.**

**Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!**

**Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.**