

MARCH 3, 2024

# "The Wilderness of Loneliness"

Scripture: Mark 14:32-41



## The Wilderness of LONELINESS

3rd Sunday in Lent

### AUTHOR

John Mark is the author. He accompanied his cousin, Barnabas, and the apostle Paul on their 1st missionary journey but left at the second stop, returning to Jerusalem. Two years later Barnabas suggested Mark as a traveling companion for their 2nd missionary journey but Paul refused. Barnabas took Mark with him and Paul chose Silas. Paul and Mark reconciled later and became close friends. Mark is also thought to have been a friend of Peter, one of Jesus' twelve disciples.

### CONTEXT

As our scripture passage opens, Jesus and his disciples have shared the Last Supper and head to the Mount of Olives. On the way, Jesus tells them they will all desert him. Peter says he will never do this but Jesus tells him that he will. In fact, he will deny Jesus 3 times before the rooster crows twice. Peter again says this will not happen and all the disciples say the same thing. .

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When they arrive at Gethsemane, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John with him to the garden. What does he ask them to do?
2. How does Jesus describe his soul?
3. What does Jesus ask God to do?
4. What does Jesus also say to God?
5. What are the disciples doing when Jesus returns?
6. After the 3rd time, who else has arrived in the garden?
7. Can you imagine the emotions Jesus must have felt? How does it make you feel to know the disciples just went to sleep when Jesus asked them to pray? Do we ever neglect our own prayer life?
8. Has your commitment to God ever cost you anything?

### ENCOURAGEMENT

Jesus understands our loneliness. He himself felt loneliness as he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, while his disciples slept. We are never truly alone as Jesus is always with us