

February 11th, 2018
Dr. Jacob T. King, Senior Pastor
Sermon Title: "Following Jesus at a Distance"
Text: Mark 14:51-52
Series: (In)Significant

"⁵¹ And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, ⁵² but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked."

1. *There are limitations to good intentions. (vs. 51)*

"And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body."

What kept him from following too closely?

- his age?
- his money or social standing?
- his unwillingness to commit?

What caused them all (including Mark) to flee?

- Fear
- Real commitment

Mt. 16:25: "For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Jesus is going toward the will of God, while everyone else is running away.

Acts 13:13

Acts 15:36-41

³⁶ And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are."³⁷ Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. ³⁸ But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹ And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹ And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

2. *There is life after failure. (vs. 52)*

"And they seized him, ⁵² but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked."

Col. 4:10-11

“Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), ¹¹ and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me.”

2 Tim 4:11- written just before Paul died.

“Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.”

3. *There is wholeness after shame. (vs.52)*

“⁵² but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.”

Mark 15:46:

“And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.”

Mark 16:5

“And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed.”

Mark 9:2b-3

“And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.

Rev. 3:15-18

“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

Rev. 19:7-9

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. ⁹ And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”