

Sermon Title: **“THE DARKEST DAYS IN HUMAN HISTORY”**

Excerpts from: Mark 14:12-16; 14:22-31; 14:32-42; 14:66-72; & 16:1-8

- The account of the **LAST** time the disciples were together with Jesus
 - Mark 14:12-16
- In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus takes Peter, James, & John & asks them to keep watch while He goes off to pray
 - 3 times Jesus returns to where He asked them to keep watch & Jesus finds them sleeping
 - Most Bible Scholars believe that there was an hour separating each of those visits from Jesus
- Following this, Jesus is betrayed by Judas & arrested
 - Following Jesus’ arrest the disciples scatter (they were afraid for their own lives)
- Peter denies Jesus 3 times (just like Jesus foretold) ... Mark 14:66-72
 - There’s actually a progression in these verses to how emphatically Peter denies Jesus
- I **CAN’T** even imagine how dark Friday & Saturday felt
 - But **EVERYTHING** changed on Sunday!
- “When the Sabbath was over” = **NO** work could be done on the Sabbath. So preparing Jesus’ body for burial had to wait until Sunday

SO WHAT?

- **ALL** that the disciples faced, we see through the lens of the Empty Tomb (On their Friday, we see Sunday)
- The disciples just lived the roller coaster of emotions, which we **ONLY** get to read about ... & the end of Matthew 28 says this ...

“& lo, I am with you **ALWAYS**, even to the end of the age.”

- I believe sometimes why we get so scared & we can feel all alone is because we **AREN’T** seeing things through the lens of Sunday
 - We’ve taken our eyes off of Jesus
- Jesus’ death reveals His deep **LOVE** for us
- Jesus’ resurrection reveals His **POWER** over sin & death
- Here’s the thing that continues to blow me away:
 - God **KNOWS** it **ALL**
 - God **DESIRES** me **IN SPITE** of it **ALL**
 - & God’s **WILLING** to **FORGIVE** it **ALL**
- There’s **HOPE** found in Jesus Christ!