

God's Servant Tried, Part 1

Mark 14:53-72

"For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ," (2 Corinthians 10:4-5 [ESV](#))

Main Idea: Jesus triumphs over evil. He alone stands at the end of the age in judgment upon all who refuse to submit to His Lordship and to receive His mercy. He alone rescues all who come to Him in faith and delivers us from the power and the penalty of evil.

"We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one." (1 John 5:19 [ESV](#))

Spiritual Failure of Two Types

1. The Failure of the Hardened Hypocrite.

Definition: A hypocrite is someone who identifies on the outside as someone that he/she is not on the inside. A person who presents themselves as someone that they are not.

Truth: Hypocrisy looks for reasons to do what we want to do in the first place. Hypocrisy does not seek to honor God, but to advance our own will.

"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth." (Isaiah 53:7 [ESV](#))

Truth: The failure of hypocrisy is eternally fatal because it turns away from Jesus as Lord. Hypocrisy bows the knee to personal desire, but not to the righteousness and majesty of Christ.

"Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls." (James 1:21 [ESV](#))

Eight symptoms of hypocrisy

1. We read, meditate upon and speak God's Word, but we do not receive God's Word implanted in our soul.
2. We judge others' sins harshly and our own sin lightly.
3. We are offended when we are corrected or rebuked for our sin.
4. We hide our sins from God and others rather than confess them openly and honestly.
5. We are concerned with the external appearance of our lives more than the internal integrity of our heart.
6. We are overly concerned with people's opinions today and not with God's judgment in the future.
7. We are religious and yet do not make much of Jesus.
8. We feel right about hating people who annoy us or who impede our agenda.

Truth: Jesus urges us to understand the difference between a person who is superficially moral and a person who is spiritually alive . . . between a person who ACTS righteous before men and a person who IS righteous on the inside.

2. The Failure of the Feeble Faithless.

"The LORD had the strength. I had the weakness. So we teamed up! It was an unbeatable combination!" Vance Havner

Truth: We often do not understand the power of sin to pull us away from our Master until it is too late.

"To dwell on the past simply causes failure in the present. While you are sitting down and bemoaning the past and regretting all the things you have not done, you are crippling yourself and preventing yourself from working in the present. Is that Christianity? Of course it is not." - Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Spiritual Victory of Divine Decree

The Victory of the Suffering Servant

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:4-5 [ESV](#))