**Study/Discussion Questions for Mark 14:66-72 (Mar. 8, 2015)**

In Mark 14:66-72 we witness how Peter denied being associated with Jesus three times. We explore how Peter’s failure to pray and stay alert in the Garden of Gethsemane resulted in his reliance upon his own power rather than the power of God. Mark’s gospel illustrates how prayer is absolutely essential for the believer when it details how the disciples had failed to cast out a demon earlier in Mark 9:14-29. We also learn in this study how Christ is faithful to His sheep even when they abandon their Shepherd. Jesus had promised back in Mark 14:30 that even after His own disciples would abandon Him, He would nonetheless come for them in Galilee after His resurrection.

1. Read Luke 21:36. Notice how Jesus uses “be on the alert” (gregareo) with “praying” in this passage just as He had admonished His disciples to do in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:38). What is the purpose of prayer in these two passages? Compare to Ephesians 6:14-20.
2. Read Romans 14:4; Philippians 1:6; 1 Cor. 1:4-9. Who according to these passages will enable believers to persevere unto the last day?
3. Read 2 Tim. 2:11-13. How do we reconcile Peter’s denial and subsequent restoration with this passage? (Hint: compare Luke 22:31-32 with John 17:12).
4. Read Zechariah 13:7-9 and compare with Mark 14:27-28. How do both passages indicate that the falling away of the disciples was ultimately for their good as well as the good of all of God’s people?