



GETHSEMANE ACCORDING TO MARK

³² Then they came to a place named Gethsemane and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³ He took with him Peter, James, and John, and began to be troubled and distressed. ³⁴ Then he said to them, “My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch.” ³⁵ He advanced a little and fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour might pass by him;

³⁶ he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will.”

³⁷ When he returned he found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?” ³⁸ Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. *k* The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.”

³⁹ Withdrawing again, he prayed, saying the same thing. ⁴⁰ Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open and did not know what to answer him.

⁴¹ He returned a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough. The hour has come. Behold, the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. ⁴² Get up, let us go. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

⁴³ Then, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. ⁴⁴ His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, “The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely.” ⁴⁵ He came and immediately went over to him and said, “Rabbi.” And he kissed him. ⁴⁶ At this they laid hands on him and arrested him. ⁴⁷ One of the bystanders drew his sword, struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his ear.

⁴⁸ Jesus said to them in reply, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs, to seize me? ⁴⁹ Day after day I was with you teaching in the temple area, yet you did not arrest me; but that the scriptures may be fulfilled.”

⁵⁰ And they all left him and fled. ⁵¹ Now a young man followed him wearing nothing but a linen cloth about his body. They seized him, ⁵² but he left the cloth behind and ran off naked.

(Mark 14, 32-52)

Brief Commentary:

Mark the evangelist tells the story of Jesus’ night of agony and deep prayer that led him to his definitive abandonment to the Father’s will, followed by Judas’ betrayal. Mark highlights Jesus’ prayer to the Father as full of trust and intimacy. In the text, Jesus calls his Father “Abbà”, word expression that in the Judaic tradition has never been used to address God; in addition, “Abbà” is used in the Gospels only

here, as if to underline the profound intimacy between God and his son Jesus in the very moment when Jesus felt more in need of his Father's love.

Mark is also the only one to add a detail, perhaps of a personal nature: it is about a young boy to escape the guards drops the sheet remained naked. It could be a memoir. Marco was in Jerusalem, and the farm of Gethsemane could belong to his family that night would have been surprised to sleep in his shelter and for this only covered the sheet.