

Lent Day 36
Tuesday March 22, 2016

Reading: Mark 14.22-31

Reflection

Have you ever seen a sports movie where the team is in the last game of the season, the scores tied, the player has the ball, shoots and misses. The game is over. The team has lost. Players have heads in hands. Coaches are sitting down in disappointment. The fans trickle out of the stadium dejectedly. Failure. Nobody plans on it and they don't strive to achieve it.

No wonder the disciples deny they will ever fall away from Jesus. They can't picture themselves failing any more than we can. But we do, don't we? We often fail. Fail in our commitments to live as faithful disciples, just like these 12 do. And, it doesn't help that Jesus predicts it. What's he doing? Doesn't he know that's deflating?

But, the word isn't about failure it's about future. Jesus has two references to the future in this section. After this meal Jesus will not drink with his disciples again until the day he drinks again in the kingdom of God. Then, after the disciples fail they will meet him in Galilee following his resurrection. These two things are linked. Once Jesus is taken and condemned the disciples will be afraid and will desert Jesus. But the last word is not failure, it's hope.

That is the same word offered to us in our failures. There is coming a day when we will be fully restored, when we will drink the wine of celebration with Jesus. Our failures and short fallings will be wiped away. And, until that day we will live by the forgiveness and grace of Jesus who will use our weak and broken testimony for his own glory.

Prayer

God of future and of hope, grant us this vision of your coming kingdom and help us to walk by grace. Amen.