

Where's Your Chair?

Mark 14 43-52



I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is on my every side;
they scheme together against me, and plot to take my life.
But my trust is in you, O Lord. I have said, 'You are my God.'
Psalm 31:13-14

Praising:

I cannot tell how he could love a child so weak and full of sin; his love must be most wonderful if he could die my love to win.

Reading:

Mark 14:43-52
The young man

The young man in the linen cloth has traditionally been understood as referring to Mark himself, the author of the Gospel. The suggestion is that for a short while after the other disciples had run off, the young man continued to follow Christ from a distance. Only when the arrest party detected his presence did he flee too, but not without leaving his linen cloth behind. In that religious culture nakedness was shameful, so it's as though Mark is shaming himself for having

abandoned Jesus. He is implying, effectively, that should any of us imagine we would have been more loyal and more dependable than the disciples, we are only kidding ourselves. We share their shame, and we do so every time we deny Christ by something we do or say or something we don't do or say.

Listening:

Praying:

We pray for those who feel ashamed

- who live with regret, embarrassment or guilt for something done or not done
- whose name or family reputation has been damaged or even destroyed
- who blame themselves wrongly for harm or pain inflicted on them by others

Father: so many of those who denied you made up for it afterwards. As I read their words and hear their voices still, I ask for the remorse to make similar recompense myself. Amen

Doing:

Tuesday, 22 December 2015