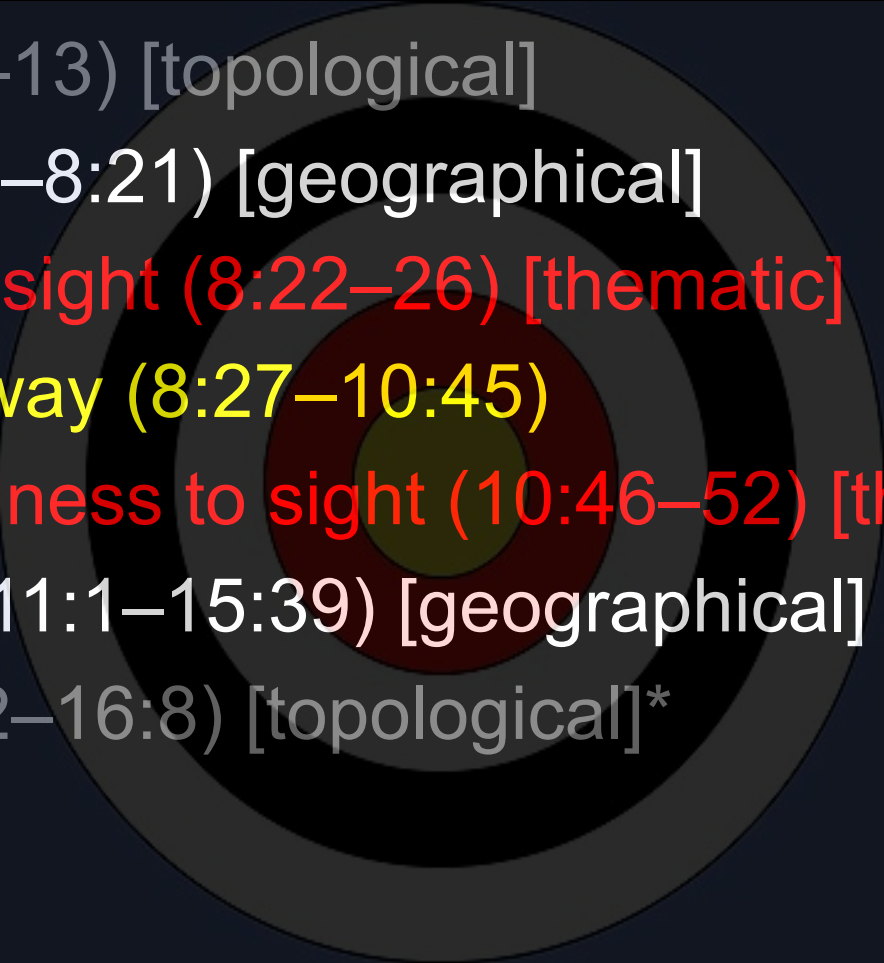


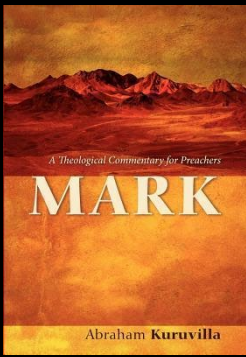
A painting depicting two fishermen, likely Jesus and one of his disciples, mending their fishing nets on a sandy beach at sunset. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the orange and yellow sky, casting a warm light over the scene. The sea is a mix of blue and green, with gentle waves lapping at the shore. In the background, a wooden fishing boat with a tall mast and rigging is beached. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Following Jesus on the Way
Fidelity at the Fire
Mark 14:53-72

Mike Hogue
November 16, 2025

Structure of Mark

- 
- A In the desert (1:2–13) [topological]
- B In Galilee (1:16–8:21) [geographical]
- C blindness to sight (8:22–26) [thematic]
- D On the way (8:27–10:45)
- C' blindness to sight (10:46–52) [thematic]
- B' In Jerusalem (11:1–15:39) [geographical]
- A' At the tomb (15:42–16:8) [topological]*
- } Act 1
Who is Jesus?
- } Act 2
Will disciples accept
His suffering?
- } Act 3
Will disciples be
faithful to Him?



²⁷And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, because it is written, ‘I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP SHALL BE SCATTERED.’ ²⁸“But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.”

Mark 14:27–28 (NASB95)

²⁹But Peter said to Him, “*Even* though all may fall away, yet I will not.” ³⁰And Jesus said to him, “Truly I say to you, that this very night, before a rooster crows twice, you yourself will deny Me three times.” ³¹But *Peter* kept saying insistently, “*Even* if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And they all were saying the same thing also.

Mark 14:29–31 (NASB95)

³⁷And He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? ³⁸“Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Mark 14:37–38 (NASB95)

⁴²“Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!”

Mark 14:42 (NASB95)

⁴³Immediately while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, *who were* from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

Mark 14:43 (NASB95)

⁵⁰And they all left Him and fled.

Mark 14:50 (NASB95)

⁵¹A young man was following Him, wearing *nothing but* a linen sheet over *his* naked *body*; and they seized him. ⁵²But he pulled free of the linen sheet and escaped naked.

Mark 14:51–52 (NASB95)

⁵³They led Jesus away to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes gathered together. ⁵⁴Peter had followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the officers and warming himself **at the fire**.

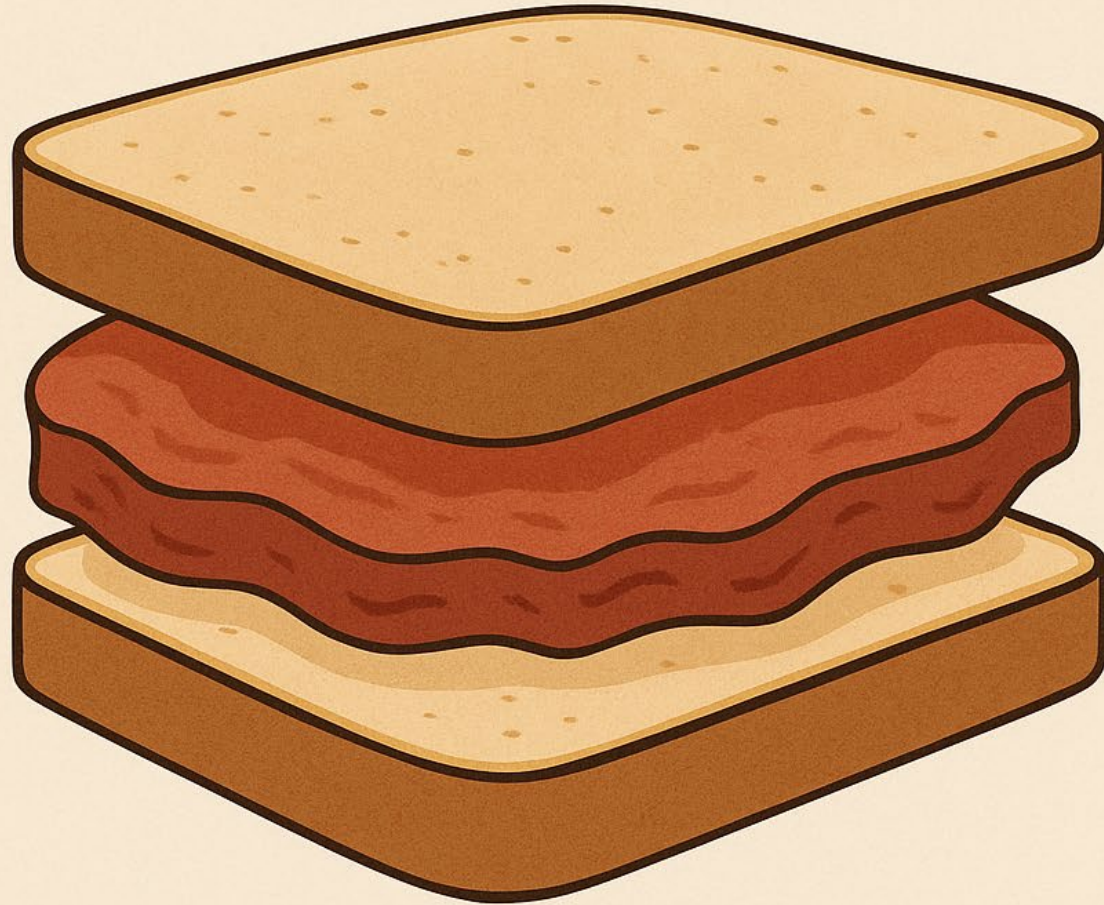
Mark 14:53–54 (NASB95)

Following Jesus on the Way
Fidelity at the Fire
Mark 14:53-72

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November 16, 2025



A Markan Sandwich of Two Trials

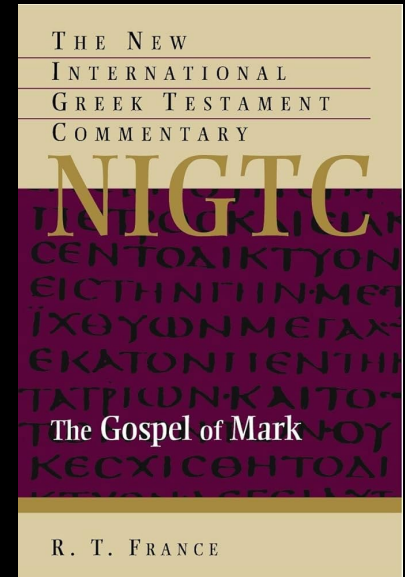


Mark 14:55–54
Peter

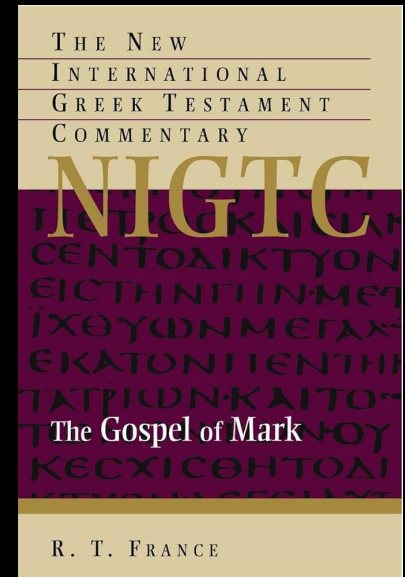
Mark 14:55–65
Jesus

Mark 14:66–72
Peter

The effect of this way of telling the story (in contrast with Luke, who records Peter's denial before Jesus' hearing) is to throw Jesus and Peter into sharp contrast. Each will be under pressure, but whereas Jesus both in his silence and in his final dramatic utterance will stand firm, Peter will crumble. Jesus will go to his death, but with his witness to his mission undimmed;



Peter will escape, but at the cost of his integrity as a disciple of Jesus. It is a study in witnessing under pressure, in how to do it and how not to do it. As such, it could be expected to offer serious food for thought to Mark's readers as they assessed their own faithfulness and built up their strength for witness in a potentially hostile world.



Mark 14:53-72

Fidelity at the Fire

1. Stay _____ to _____
2. Practice _____ with your _____
3. Be _____ when you _____

Fidelity at the Fire

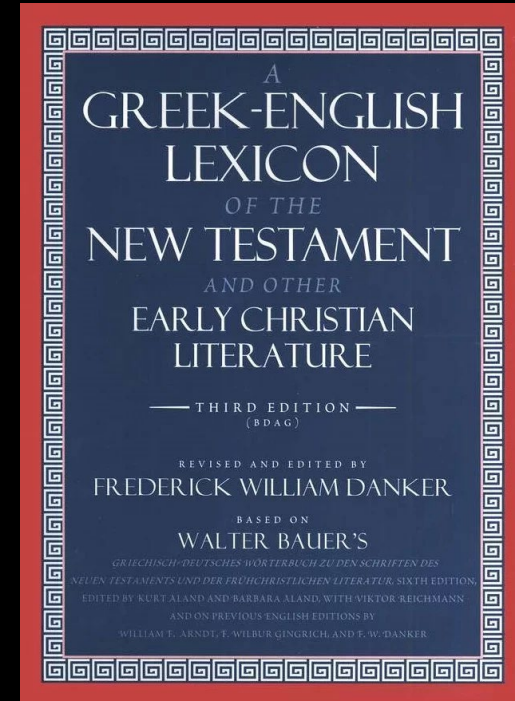
1. Stay close to Christ
2. Practice _____ with your _____
3. Be _____ when you ____

⁵⁴Peter had followed Him **at a distance**, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the officers and warming himself at the fire.

Mark 14:54 (NASB95)

μακρόθεν (*makrothen*)

from far away, from a distance



⁸Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

James 4:8 (NASB95)

Psalm 73:25-28

²⁵Whom have I in heaven *but You?*
And besides You, I desire nothing on
earth.

²⁶My flesh and my heart may fail, But
God is the strength of my heart and
my portion forever.

²⁷For, behold, those who are far from
You will perish; You have destroyed
all those who are unfaithful to You.

²⁸But as for me, the nearness of God
is my good; I have made the Lord
God my refuge, That I may tell of all
Your works.

Psalms 73:25–28 (NASB95)

²⁰“You shall fear the LORD your God;
you shall serve Him and **cling to Him**,
and you shall swear by His name.

²¹“He is your praise and He is your
God, who has done these great and
awesome things for you which your
eyes have seen.

Deuteronomy 10:20–21 (NASB95)

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet* without sin.

¹⁶Therefore **let us draw near with confidence** to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:15–16 (NASB95)



²¹When my heart was embittered And I was pierced within, ²²Then I was senseless and ignorant; I was *like* a beast before You.

²³Nevertheless I am continually with You; **You have taken hold of my right hand.** ²⁴With Your counsel You will guide me, And afterward receive me to glory.

Psalms 73:21–24 (NASB95)



David Platt
Sermon Archive

David Platt, “Sin in the Camp, Part 4,” in *David Platt Sermon Archive* (Birmingham, AL: David Platt, 2008), 1206.

⁶⁶As Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came,

Mark 14:66 (NASB95)

Fidelity at the Fire

1. Stay close to Christ
2. Practice _____ with your _____
3. Be _____ when you ____

Fidelity at the Fire

1. Stay close to Christ
2. Practice integrity with your identity
3. Be _____ when you ____

⁵⁵Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, **and they were not finding any.**

Mark 14:55 (NASB95)

⁵You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.

1 John 3:5 (NASB95)

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet* without sin.

Hebrews 4:15 (NASB95)

²¹For you have been called for this purpose,
since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you
an example for you to follow in His steps,

²²WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT
FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; ²³and while being
reviled, He did not revile in return; while
suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept
entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges
righteously;

1 Peter 2:21–23 (NASB95)

⁵⁷Some stood up and *began* to give false testimony against Him, saying,
⁵⁸“We heard Him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.’ ”

Mark 14:57–58 (NASB95)

¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²¹But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

John 2:19, 21 (NASB95)

⁶⁰The high priest stood up *and came* forward and questioned Jesus, saying, “**Do You not answer?** What is it that these men are testifying against You?”

Mark 14:60 (NASB95)

⁶¹ But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed *One*?”

Mark 14:61 (NASB95)

⁶¹But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, “**Are You** the Christ, the Son of the Blessed *One*?”

Mark 14:61 (NASB95)

⁶²And Jesus said, “I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.”

Mark 14:62 (NASB95)

⁶³Tearing his clothes, the high priest said, “What further need do we have of witnesses?”

Mark 14:63 (NASB95)

¹⁰‘The priest who is the highest among his brothers, on whose head the anointing oil has been poured and who has been consecrated to wear the garments, shall not uncover his head **nor tear his clothes**;

Leviticus 21:10 (NASB95)

⁶⁴“You have heard the blasphemy; how does it seem to you?” And **they all condemned Him to be deserving of death.**

⁶⁵Some began to spit at Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him with their fists, and to say to Him, “Prophecy!” And the officers received Him with slaps *in the face.*

Mark 14:64–65 (NASB95)

Mark 8:34-36

⁶⁶As Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came, ⁶⁷and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Nazarene.”

Mark 14:66–67 (NASB95)

⁶⁸But he denied *it*, saying, “I neither know nor understand **what** you are talking about.” And he went out onto the porch.

Mark 14:68 (NASB95)

⁶⁹The servant-girl saw him, and began once more to say to the bystanders, “This is *one* of them!”
⁷⁰But again he denied it.

Mark 14:69–70a (NASB95)

⁷⁰But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders were again saying to Peter, “Surely you are *one* of them, for you are a Galilean too.”

⁷¹But he began to curse and swear, “**I do not know this man** you are talking about!”

Mark 14:70–71 (NASB95)

The definition of *identity* is the “*condition or character as to who a person or what a thing is; the qualities, beliefs, etc., that distinguish or identify a person or thing.*”



Identity is that sense of being and self-understanding that **frames our actions, communicates to others who we are, and sets the agenda for our acts.** We live out of a sense of identity. It may be unexpressed or even unconscious, but it still determines us. Image is not identity; image is what we project to others, an attempt at how we would like to be seen, which may have little to do with what we really are.

Klyne R. Snodgrass, Introduction to a Hermeneutics of Identity, *Bibliotheca Sacra* 168 (2011): 910.



HOLMAN
New
Testament
Commentary



*Galatians, Ephesians,
Philippians & Colossians*

GENERAL EDITOR

Max Anders

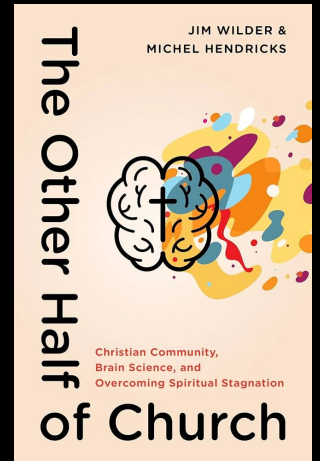
AUTHOR

Max Anders

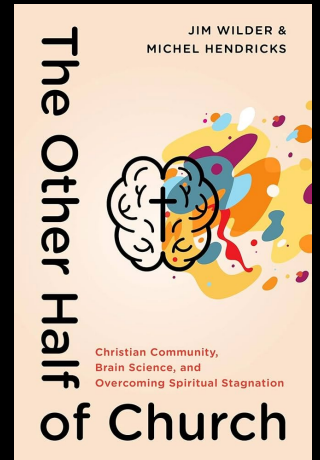
²May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? ³Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, **so we too might walk in newness of life.**

Romans 6:2–4 (NASB95)

Our brains were designed to respond to group identity in order to help us act like “our people.” Our right brain contains the control center that interprets our group identity and uses it to shape our inner character. The orbital prefrontal cortex (on the right side of my brain behind my eye) is dominant for integrating my current situation in life with who I am—in real time. Every one-sixth of a second our right brain tries to answer the questions, “Who am I? How do my people act now?”



If my control center is working smoothly, my circumstances are integrated with my group identity. I spontaneously act with joy and peace. If my control center desynchronizes, I forget who I am and how to connect with those around me. I stop acting like myself. Even though I am a Christian, I stop acting like one.



²⁰“I have been crucified with Christ;
and it is no longer I who live, but
Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I
now live in the flesh I live by faith in
the Son of God, who loved me and
gave Himself up for me.

Galatians 2:20 (NASB95)

³⁴And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. ³⁵“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. ³⁶“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?

Mark 8:34–36 (NASB95)

³⁴And _____ the _____ with _____
_____, and _____, “If _____
to _____ Me, he _____, and
_____ his _____ and _____. ³⁵“For
_____ to _____ his _____ will _____ it, but
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Fidelity at the Fire

1. Stay close to Christ
2. Practice integrity with your identity
3. Be _____ when you ____

Fidelity at the Fire

1. Stay close to Christ
2. Practice integrity with your identity
3. Be sorrowful when you sin

⁷²Immediately a rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had made the remark to him, “Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” **And he began to weep.**

Mark 14:72 (NASB95)

⁹I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to *the point of* repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to *the will of* God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. ¹⁰For the sorrow that is according to *the will of* God produces a repentance without regret, *leading to* salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

2 Corinthians 7:9–10 (NASB95)

¹⁸The Lord is near to the
brokenhearted And saves those who
are crushed in spirit.

Psalms 34:18 (NASB95)

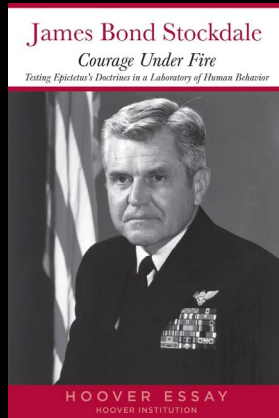
²“For My hand made all these things,
Thus all these things came into
being,” declares the LORD. “But to
this one I will look, To him who is
humble and contrite of spirit, and who
trembles at My word.

Isaiah 66:2 (NASB95)

¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Psalms 51:17 (NASB95)

“One of the first things I had to get used to in prison was the sight of men **weeping uncontrollably**. I don’t mean from physical pain, but from the **humiliation of having broken under interrogation**. It was part of the system; every man had his breaking point. You couldn’t draw a straight line and say, ‘Here are the strong; there are the weak.’ **Everybody broke**. The question was not whether a man would break, but **how he would put himself together again**, what he would do next. Character was not defined by never falling, but by rising again, by keeping faith, by refusing to give up.”



¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;
²and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world.*

1 John 2:1–2 (NASB95)

⁵¹A young man was following Him, wearing *nothing but* a **linen** sheet over *his* naked *body*; and they seized him. ⁵²But he pulled free of the linen sheet and escaped naked.

Mark 14:51–52 (NASB95)

⁴⁶Joseph bought a **linen cloth**, took Him down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

Mark 15:46 (NASB95)

¹Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, **despising the shame**, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1–2 (NASB95)

¹⁰I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul
will exult in my God; For He has clothed
me with garments of salvation, He has
wrapped me with a robe of righteousness,
As a bridegroom decks himself with a
garland, And as a bride adorns herself
with her jewels.

Isaiah 61:10 (NASB95)

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Application

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At the fire, stay close to Jesus and remain true to who you are — a beloved and holy child of God. If you fail, grieve your sin and return to the One who bore your shame.