PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

One, in times of trouble, **pray**.

Two, It is okay to go the Lord and ask Him to change things in your situation. Jesus did this twice in this one setting. But the answer was no. Jesus accepted this hard answer. We must be willing to do the same. This calls for total reliance on the goodness of God and His trustworthiness.

Three, Jesus turns to the Scriptures. He always did, so should we. What was being fulfilled was authenticating Jesus' Messiahship.

Four, a poor beginning does not necessarily mean a poor ending. Mark 14:50-51 records what is believed by most to be his (Mark's) personal experience at the arrest. Later, he is recorded to have turned back during a mission trip. This infuriated Paul. Paul and Barnabas part ways over this. Barnabas, Mr. Encourager, mentors John Mark and as Paul draws near to the end of his life he has this to say about Mark, "Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service." (II Timothy 4:11 NASB) So beloved, persevere, trust the Lord, pray, and go to the Scriptures for everything.

Ultimate lesson, for God so loved the world, God so loves you and me, that He sent Jesus to die for our sins. Jesus allowed Himself to be betrayed into the hands of sinners, He did the Father's will. He was obedient to death upon a cross. He was buried, He arose on the third day, He ascended into heaven, and He is coming again!

Men and women, boys and girls, that is love. The Lord paid so high a price for us, will you accept this salvation today that He so freely offers to who ever believes. (See Romans 10:8-13; Ephesians 2:8-9)