

Mark 14:52

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked.

Analysis

And he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked. The young man escapes by abandoning his garment, fleeing γυμνός (gymnos, "naked/unclothed"). This vivid image mirrors the disciples' desertion—all abandon Jesus, some literally leaving behind even their dignity. The verb φεύγω (pheugō, "fled") echoes verse 50, reinforcing the theme of total abandonment.

Some interpreters see symbolic meaning: the linen cloth (sindōn) foreshadows Jesus' burial shroud (15:46); the young man's escape by leaving it behind prefigures resurrection, when Jesus would leave His grave clothes behind (John 20:6-7). The naked flight also recalls Genesis 3:10—humanity fleeing God's presence in shame. Yet Christ would soon be stripped naked (15:24) so that shame-fleeing humanity could be clothed in righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21). He became naked so we need not flee unclothed.

Historical Context

Public nakedness brought extreme shame in first-century Jewish culture. That the young man chose such humiliation over capture demonstrates the arrest's terror. Yet this shameful flight would be transformed if Mark later became the Gospel writer who served Paul and Peter, eventually facing martyrdom according to church tradition. The naked deserter became a clothed confessor.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does this young man's shameful escape contrast with Jesus' dignified submission to arrest?
2. What might the symbolism of leaving behind the linen cloth teach about counting the cost of discipleship?
3. If this was Mark, how does his transformation from naked deserter to Gospel writer encourage your own journey from spiritual failure to faithful service?

Interlinear Text

ο	δὲ	καταλιπὼν	τὴν	σινδόνα	γυμνὸς	ἔφυγεν	ἀπ'
G3588	And	he left	G3588	the linen cloth	naked	and fled	from
G1161		G2641		G4616	G1131	G5343	G575

αὐτῶν

them

G846

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