

A certain young man...

Chapter 14:

⁵⁰ All of them deserted him and fled.

⁵¹ *A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth.* They caught hold of him, ⁵² but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

Chapter 16:

⁵ As they entered the tomb, *they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe,* sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶ But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."

- Is he the Apostle John? [Ambrose, Chrysostom, Bede]
- Is he a resident of the house where they ate the Passover? [Theophylact]
- Is he the evangelist himself, who secretly signed his work in this way? [Many 19th century commentators]
- Is this the same young man sitting in the tomb in Chapter 16?
- Is he a typological figure standing for desertion, as Peter stands for denial and Judas for betrayal?
- Many Marcan signs of editing in the Gethsemane passage suggest it was included here in response to some scandalous failure(s) in the early Christian community
- Three paths of abandonment: (1) by apathy, sleeping through critical moments [Peter, James, John]; (2) by conscious betrayal under the bask of friendship [Judas]; (3) by flight in a time of pressure or panic [the young man]