

## Week 35

### **Jesus Betrayed**

Beginning with the context of our study, which means what is going on around the events of discussion, also when and where are part of the context. We get our information from the other gospel writers. Remember, John is including teachings, signs and miracles, which will convince us that Jesus, is the Messiah and lead us to eternal life. We should never think that there are errors in the gospels because they give different information; these are eyewitness accounts from men of very diverse backgrounds.

As we finished chapter 17, the prayer of Jesus for His followers, which some call His High Priestly Prayer, we learn that Jesus left the location where this prayer took place and crossed the Kidron valley, entering into the Garden of Gethsemane. After arriving there Jesus asked His disciples to wait for Him while He went and prayed. Then He took Peter, James and John aside and told them how distressed he was and asked them to stay awake with Him. Have you ever experienced such distress of soul and mind that you just wanted someone to sit with you, not say anything just be there?

Remember Matthew told us Jesus prayed and said "O, my Father, if it is possible let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will but as you will". Jesus repeated this three times, and was pacing back and forth checking on the disciples, hoping for human companionship, but every time He saw them, they were sleeping. Finally He told them to get up to go because His betrayer was on his way. How humiliating for them when they finally realized they had slept through the time when Jesus needed them most.

Never forget, Jesus was in complete control of all these events, He could easily have escaped however, He boldly faced His accuser and allowed Himself to be arrested and treated horribly in order to carry out the divine plan of salvation.

Do you ever feel like you are the only person going through certain suffering? Jesus suffered in the same way; the Bible says in all our suffering He was afflicted. Somehow, Jesus experienced all the pain, loss, rejection, and horror we experience and He received the wrath of God for all our sin, taking the punishment we deserved. How can anyone possibly think they could take the wrath against their own sin when we have a clear description of the suffering of Jesus? Why should you suffer the wrath of God against your sin when it has already been suffered and you can go free?

We have seen Jesus, our Great High Priest pray for us and now we will be eyewitnesses to His great sacrifice.

John 18:1

The Kidron Valley is a ravine between the Temple Mount and the Mount of Olives. In the rainy season it is filled with water but at this time it was dry.

John 18:2

Remember Judas had left Jesus and the disciples during the Passover meal in the upper room. Being a quiet place away from the crowds of the city, this garden was evidently a favorite place for Jesus to go and so Judas expected to find Him there.

John 18:3

A Roman cohort would have 600 soldiers plus the Jewish Temple police came to arrest Jesus. Apparently the Pharisees had accused Jesus of being a trouble causer according to Luke 23:2 so Romans would have been interested in getting Him into custody. The Jews wanted to execute Jesus but they did not have the authority to do so, so they had to get the Roman government involved. They came with all kinds of weapons so evidently they were expecting resistance. The mention of torches and lanterns remind us it is still dark outside.

John did not mention the kiss of Judas but this is a turning point for him, openly betraying Jesus and a turning point for the disciples, running away from Jesus.

John 18:4

These events were all predetermined. Jesus chose Judas knowing he was a devil as Jesus said in John 6:64, the time of the arrest was preplanned, it would happen during Passover, not before. The method of execution (crucifixion) was predetermined; Jesus knew He would be lifted up on a cross. John 12:32

John 18:5-6

Another of Jesus "I AM" statements, one of 7 in John's gospel. Jesus authority and power overcame them. The Jews knew the meaning of His statement "I AM"; they knew the significance of His claim. Remember in Exodus 3, when Moses asked God to tell him His Name and God replied, "I AM WHO I AM". This is not exactly a Name but it is what God has revealed to us. It means I AM Who I AM; I will be who I will be. The 4 Hebrew letters yod/hay/vav/ha or JHVH have had vowels added to make it into a pronounceable word; Jehovah. Where you see the word LORD all in capital letters, that is another way of saying Jehovah, because the Jews believe the Name was too sacred to say it. Any Jew would know that if Jesus referred to Himself as "I AM"; He was saying He is God.

These ungodly men had no power over Him except as He permitted. Just as these men were prostrated on the ground before Him, so will every man ever born fall on their knees as call Him LORD. Consider Philippians 2:9-10 which is a quote from Isaiah, For this reason also God highly exalted Him (Jesus) and bestowed on Him the Name which is above every Name; so that at the Name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father. Also Romans 14:10...we will all stand before the judgment seat of God for it is written: As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me" again quoting Isaiah.

Let me encourage you today friend, to bow your knee today and confess that Jesus is LORD of your life, today while there is still time for you to be forgiven and be given the gift of eternal life. You do not know when you will have no more time left, do not put off this important decision. Just yesterday while driving in heavy traffic in Columbus a woman changed lanes into my lane, what prevented her from crashing into us at 65 miles an hour, what kept my SUV from rolling as I swerved to avoid collision? It was not my appointed time to be with the LORD, if it had been, I am ready to meet Him, because I have bowed my knee to Him, accepted His free gift of forgiveness and eternal life. Friends, not because I study and teach the bible am I fit to meet Him but because He has given me His righteousness when I bowed before Him, in me there is nothing good, I am made righteous because of Jesus.

John 18:7-9

Jesus willingly turned Himself over to the soldiers but asked for release of His disciples. The Good Shepherd was willing to give His life for His sheep. Just think how merciful He is to His followers; He

knew they were not ready to face persecution yet. They all died within a few years (all except John) and they were executed in many horrible ways.

The bible says He will not allow us to be tempted or tested above our ability to bear it, so we see here a perfect example. No one can pluck us out of His Hand.

Look at His perfect submission to His Father's will. Remember He had prayed for this to pass away from Him but prayed that prayer that never fails, "Thy will be done". Are you determined to have your own way and do only what you like? This is the chief source of unhappiness in this world. Take the portion the Lord gives, not my will but Yours Father; this is the mind of Christ.

John 18:10-11

Peter had promised to die for Jesus so he was ready to fight. This sword was more likely a dagger according to the Greek word. Peter was missing the point.

The cup of wrath or the cup of God's wrath is referred to in the OT. It refers to suffering; isolation, death and this Jesus would have to endure to atone for the sin of the world. The cup of God's wrath for the sin of the world was poured on Jesus and He was the only One capable of taking it. He took it for you, because of your sin. If you will accept this fact by faith you will never have to face God's judgment and wrath for your sin yourself. Someone has already paid the price for your sin, why should you choose to do so? Is it your pride, perhaps you believe you have to do this yourself, I guarantee you, you cannot and you will lose the opportunity to experience God's grace and forgiveness if you pass the chance to accept the provision of Jesus' sacrifice for your sin debt.

John 18:12-13

Can we ever understand the hardness of men's hearts? These had just fallen on the ground because of the power, which came from Jesus, they had witnessed the ear being healed and yet they proceed with their grizzly business.

Both Annas and Caiaphas had been high priests. Annas was Israel's high priest from AD 6-15 when Romans deposed him. Caiaphas, Anna's son-in-law, was appointed high priest from AD 18-36/37. According to Jewish law the High Priest was from Aaron's descendents and held office for life. Whether the Romans had appointed Caiaphas or he bought the office is unknown.

The Jews considered Annas the High Priest and he still had the authority among the Jews, but Caiaphas made the final decisions.

By now it was the middle of the night so they took Jesus to the High Priest's home because they were in a hurry to complete the execution before the Sabbath. Can you imagine such hypocrisy? This is a picture of how religious ritual can be carried out mindlessly and without the least interruption to the sinful soul.

John 18:14

Caiaphas said this because he was afraid of a Jewish riot (think about Palm Sunday) and a Roman reaction to disturbance.

Both Annas and Caiaphas should have known Jesus was the Messiah, it was plain enough. They could have investigated His birth, His claims, His teachings, and His miracles even though it was all done in public. On the other hand perhaps they did, realized He was the Messiah but didn't want Him to interfere with their lives. They were deceitful men pursuing their own power and selfish ambition; all

they wanted was to eliminate any competition. Obviously they had no problem killing their own Messiah, if that is what it took for them to stay in power. Never underestimate the evil men will do; as they say, "Power corrupts".

John 18:15-18

So Peter and another disciple, probably John, who fled when the soldiers came to the Garden, returned and followed Jesus and the officers to the home of the high priest. Notice Peter, who had said he was ready to lie down his life, is now not so brave and thought lying was his only alternative.

And so here he is trying to keep warm by the fire with the enemies of Jesus.

John 18:19

Perhaps Annas was trying to find out how many disciples Jesus had and whether to try to arrest them too.

John 18:20-23

Jesus did nothing in secret; Annas could question anyone about Jesus teachings.

Jesus defended Himself against this unlawful attack.

John 18:24

John did not record this interrogation however Mark tells us this questioning included the entire Sanhedrin. They knew they had no case against Him so they began producing false witnesses.

John 18:25-27

Peter's third denial happened just as Jesus said it would. Luke told us that after Peter had denied Jesus the third time "the LORD turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him and he went out and wept bitterly".

This rooster crow announcing Peter's denial also signaled the beginning of a new day.

John 18:28

The Praetorium was the name of the palace of the governor, Pilate, who came out to meet them. Since it was the morning of Passover by now they did not want to enter the building as Jewish law said entering the house of a Gentile would case a Jewish person to be ceremonially defiled. If this happened they could not celebrate the feast of Passover or enter the Temple until restored to "cleanness". Its ironic isn't it; they were keeping their little religious rules while planning the murder of an innocent man.

John 18:29-32

Pilate was in charge of Judea (the region where Jerusalem was located) from AD 26-36; He was unpopular with the Jews because he had taken money from the temple treasuries to build an aqueduct. He lived in Caesarea, but came to Jerusalem during the major feasts in order to handle any problems since there were so many people there.

These Jewish leaders hated the Romans, they must have been desperate to get rid of Jesus to go to Pilate, and normally they would never turn over one of their people to Rome.

Pilate must have been suspicious of this proceeding so he asked he asked what the charges were. What a vague answer they gave "if he were not a criminal we wouldn't be here", no charges stated.

Pilate wasn't buying it; he knew they were jealous and spiteful so he didn't give them any satisfaction.

So the Jewish leader persisted and insinuated they had already found reasons to charge Him. They wanted Jesus executed publically and they had to have the Roman's permission to do that.

Jesus knew it would be a Roman execution, He had predicted He would die on a cross. The Jews executed by stoning, the Romans by crucifixion.

It had to be a cross, why?

God designated this in order to accomplish His purpose

1. Crucifixion preserved the accuracy of the Messianic prophecies; none of His bones would be broken. Stoning broke bones.
2. The crucifixion combined the Jews and Gentiles in a conspiracy of death. Therefore the guilt for Jesus' death was on the whole world.
3. The crucifixion actualized the Old Testament picture of the serpent on the pole as a sign of salvation. Remember Jesus said in John 3:14 Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that, whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. You can review this by reading Numbers 21:9. It is primarily about having faith that God's provision for the healing of sin is all that is adequate for salvation
4. The cross was God's commanded form of death for anyone who was under divine curse. He was to be hanged from a tree in judgment for his sin. By hanging on a cross Jesus became sin for us, since he had no sin of His own.

God used the cross of Jesus to work out every detail of His eternal plan to accomplish our salvation.