

**Pastor Dave – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

## **Journey to The Cross**

Matthew 26:47-56 Christian Standard Bible

### **Judas's Betrayal of Jesus**

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, suddenly arrived. A large mob with swords and clubs was with him from the chief priests and elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> His betrayer had given them a sign: "The one I kiss, he's the one; arrest him." <sup>49</sup> So immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

<sup>50</sup> "Friend," Jesus asked him, "why have you come?"<sup>[a]</sup>

Then they came up, took hold of Jesus, and arrested him. <sup>51</sup> At that moment one of those with Jesus reached out his hand and drew his sword. He struck the high priest's servant and cut off his ear.

<sup>52</sup> Then Jesus told him, "Put your sword back in its place because all who take up the sword will perish by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Or do you think that I cannot call on my Father, and he will provide me here and now with more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> How, then, would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?"

<sup>55</sup> At that time Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs, as if I were a criminal,<sup>[b]</sup> to capture me? Every day I used to sit, teaching in the temple, and you didn't arrest me. <sup>56</sup> But all this has happened so that the writings of the prophets would be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and ran away.

A very familiar passage – so much we can learn about the character of the Lord Jesus Christ

### Recap – Last week.

Jesus being set up by the Pharisees and the scribes and being asked a challenging question, what they thought was a challenging question.

“What's the greatest commandment Jesus” we looked at Jesus response - To that love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your soul with all your mind and the second is like it, love your neighbor as yourself.

We focused on that last week and yet as we look at that passage and then we jump ahead to what's happening in this passage a lot has happened.

Some high points.

A couple of statements that Jesus - He warns his disciples about the hypocrisy in the self-righteousness of the Pharisees.

Warns his disciples to flee from them, get away from them, don't follow them, don't have anything to do with those self-righteous hypocrites.

Jesus two days before the Passover the chief priests and the scribes plot to kill him.

Going to be looking at Luke's account.

Jesus is anointed by Mary and Martha's in the house with Lazarus and his disciples being there she anoints his head with an expensive perfume the disciples say - you know it could have been sold for this much money. Jesus reprimands them and says actually she's anointed me for my burial. This being a part of God's plan as Jesus works his way to the cross.

He eats the Passover meal with his disciples and at the Passover merely institutes the Lord supper, giving the disciples the significance of the bread and the juice that they're taking part in.

He announces that he will be betrayed by one of his disciples.

Jesus tells Peter of his impending denial of Christ and then he takes his disciples to the garden of Gethsemane, giving instructions to the disciples to watch and pray so that they don't enter into temptation.

Jesus goes on a little farther by himself and in agony over the brutal events that he will be facing pours out his heart to the father.

John records that Jesus prays for some time all the while communing with God the father praying for his disciples praying for the Saints, that they will come to know Christ as savior in the future.

Jesus goes back to the disciples for the last time.

- Asking God if he could have the cup of wrath removed – Jesus saying, “But not as I want – Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Jesus lets the disciples know that the hour has come for him to be betrayed.

3 Things to be looked at.

1. Nature of the betrayal.
2. Nature of the betrayer.
3. Nature of the betrayed.

Matthew 26:46 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>46</sup> Get up; let's go. See, my betrayer is near."

Event in the life of Jesus Christ that we encounter today.

- Mock trials – tried – found guilty and executed.

### **Point #1 – Nature of the Betrayal.**

Some of us know what betrayal is having experienced it with loved ones and even colleagues at work.

- We know what betrayal causes in our lives.
- Jesus knows exactly what we are experiencing in moments of betrayal.

### **A - For Jesus this was premeditated betrayal – planned in advance.**

- Jesus knew this – but it doesn't take away from the gravity of what is about to happen.

In Luke we read of the nature of the betrayal.

Luke 22:1-6 Christian Standard Bible

### **The Plot to Kill Jesus**

**22** The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called Passover, was approaching. <sup>2</sup> The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put him to death, because they were afraid of the people.

<sup>3</sup> Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was numbered among the Twelve. <sup>4</sup> He went away and discussed with the chief priests and temple police how he could hand him over to them. <sup>5</sup> They were glad and agreed to give him silver.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>6</sup> So he accepted the offer and started looking for a good opportunity to betray him to them when the crowd was not present.

In Marks account he lets us know that this is 2 days prior to the Passover.

- The Pharisees we are looking for a way to put Jesus to death as they were afraid of the people.

### **B – Satanic in Nature.**

Satan entered into Judas Iscariot to lead him to betray Jesus.

But we must make sure not to forget God was using this to bring about the redemption of sinners.

- What Satan intended for evil; God used to accomplish His plan.
- Taking Jesus to the cross of calvary for the redemption of sinners.

Then and now – Satan cannot bring these things about – as God is sovereign over all.

### **C – This brought pleasure to the chief priests.**

- They took pleasure in this happening to Jesus – in Judas coming to them offering to betray Jesus.

We look at how evil and sinful these scribes and pharisees were.

- But everyone, all of them are as sinful as we are. We needed Jesus to save us from our sin.
- We take pleasure in our sins, as they did.
- We need a saviour.
- They didn't give any thought or consideration to needing a saviour.

### **E – It involved the Romans.**

John tells us the Roman soldiers were present in this mob.

Matthew, Mark and Luke describe this as such.

- They came equipped as a mob – ready to do violence.
- Tension.
- Swords – clubs – lanterns – torches.
- An ugly scene.

It did result in violence – but not in the way that we may have thought with the mob.

- The violence was as a result of one of the disciples pulling a sword.

- John records that it was Peter who pulled out the sword.

John 18:10-11 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

<sup>11</sup> At that, Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword away! Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me?"

- It could have got so much worse had Jesus not have stepped in.

Just in the nature of the betrayal it looked bleak.

## **Point # 2 – Nature of The Betrayer.**

- Judas Iscariot.

We read that Judas his betrayer had given the mob a sign.

<sup>48</sup> His betrayer had given them a sign: "The one I kiss, he's the one; arrest him."

Quote - In the Bible encyclopedia it describes Judas as the betrayer this way Judas's act was more than that of giving a person up to authorities, he did it under circumstances of treachery which modified its character.

- a. He took advantage of his intimate relationship with Jesus Christ as a disciple to put him into the hands of his enemies.

Secondly, he did it stealthily by night.

Thirdly by a kiss an act which professed affection and friendliness.

Another scholar references that the fact that the kiss was a way of showing respect for authority and as he kisses Jesus with this professed affection or friendliness or respect for authority in that action is betraying Jesus.

Fourth, he did it for money and lastly, he knew that Jesus was innocent of any crime.

Think about this for a minute.

What would happen or how you would respond if that was done to you, one of your closest friends or family members betrays you to people who want to kill. They don't just betray you but does it in such a way as with a sign of affection, which is what actually

betrays you to your enemies. Doing it for greed, all the while knowing that you're completely innocent of any sort of crimes any sort of reason why you'd ever be arrested.

Judas – a guy who is treacherous – greedy and with no consideration of the friendship he has.

- He walked with Jesus for 3 years.
- He saw Jesus perform so many miracles.
- Sat under Jesus teaching – Sin – Judgement – Righteousness – Mercy and Grace.
- He heard the father speak.
- Witness the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Partnered with other disciples.

Yet Judas remained unmoved, unchanged and unrepentant.

He followed Jesus of Nazareth the teacher – the miracle worker.

- He was never a true believer – a follower of Jesus the Messiah.

Give some thought to the dangerous position that Judas was in. How dangerous that situation is!

Talk a good talk, but never walked the walk.

So many people think their morality is going to get them to heaven!

We may find ourselves in a similar position.

I am religious – I am devout.

- Every Sunday in church – singing – praying – sitting under the word of God.
- Going to church – serving in ministry – attending prayer gatherings – in a small group.

But! – never really having repented of our sins and seeing our need of a saviour.

Religious maybe – but not a believer.

Hearing the gospel week in and week – are unwilling to say – I am a sinful person before Almighty God, and I need Jesus Christ to save me to transform my life.

I want to really live for Him, really grow in Him, really want Him to change my life and have a personal relationship with him and grow in my love for him.

It's a really dangerous place to be in – fooling ourselves that we are good enough and that we have done enough of the right things to get to heaven and in that moment not depending on Jesus to get us there.

- We are to confess and repent of our sin.
- And trust Christ as saviour.

### **Point # 3 – Nature of The Betrayed.**

It is important that we go back to Jesus.

The reminder in this passage of what Jesus came to do.

[Matthew 26:48:49](#)

[48](#) His betrayer had given them a sign: “The one I kiss, he’s the one; arrest him.” [49](#) So immediately he went up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

- Jesus responds as friend.

[50](#) “Friend,” Jesus asked him, “why have you come?”<sup>[a]</sup>

- Another way of putting this would be – “You need to get on with what you are about to do”.

Jesus could have responded differently – But he was committed to going to the cross.

“Friend, do what you have come to do”.

- Jesus committed, even here to teaching the disciples.

Commentary writer quote ...

Jesus emphasising a couple of things to Peter.

- Teaching his disciples and not wanting them to be killed.
- Protecting Peter.
- Also, that they understood it was his mission to go to the cross – for the purpose of redemption.

[John 18:11](#)

[11](#) At that, Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword away!

Jesus' reinforcing/teaching that God's kingdom is not perpetuated by force.

- We don't preach by the sword.
- We seek to convert them with the truth.

John pointing out Jesus fulfilling scripture here – protecting Peter.

Jesus demonstrating to the mob that he was going to give up his life.

- By his own accord.
- Jesus giving himself up.

Jesus said – “Couldn't I have called 12 legions of angels.”

- But Jesus was willing to give his life up.

John in his account gives more detail of the mob approaching.

- One says – “Are you Jesus of Nazareth”.

Jesus' response is – “I am He”.

In that moment they fell on their backs at the power of His words.

- But Jesus goes with them to the cross of calvary willingly.

#### [Matthew 26:55 Christian Standard Bible](#)

<sup>55</sup> At that time Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs, as if I were a criminal,<sup>[b]</sup> to capture me? Every day I used to sit, teaching in the temple, and you didn't arrest me.

- Jesus professing his innocence.

He is going to be arrested – tried – convicted and crucified.

On 2 occasions Matthew states – This is how scripture is to be fulfilled and fulfilled in this way.

Old Testament.

Having every confidence in God's word that this is to happen.



Zechariah 13:7 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>7</sup> Sword, awake against my shepherd,  
against the man who is my associate—  
this is the declaration of the LORD of Armies.  
Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered;  
I will turn my hand against the little ones.

Matthew 6:31 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>31</sup> So don't worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?'

- All this was fulfilled, no one stuck around – everyone fled.

**Question** – How did this feel for Jesus – fully God and fully man>

- All the disciples ran away.

This accentuating the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

- From this moment, to just months later.

Jesus can do a transforming work in our lives.

Isaiah 53:7 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth.  
Like a lamb led to the slaughter  
and like a sheep silent before her shearers,  
he did not open his mouth.

- When Jesus stood trial, he didn't try to defend himself or his innocence.

## Psalm 22:16-18 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>16</sup> For dogs have surrounded me;  
a gang of evildoers has closed in on me;  
they pierced<sup>a</sup> my hands and my feet.  
<sup>17</sup> I can count all my bones;  
people<sup>b</sup> look and stare at me.  
<sup>18</sup> They divided my garments among themselves,  
and they cast lots for my clothing

- The beginnings of the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

## Psalm 69:20-21 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>20</sup> Insults have broken my heart,  
and I am in despair.  
I waited for sympathy,  
but there was none;  
for comforters, but found no one.  
<sup>21</sup> Instead, they gave me gall for my food,  
and for my thirst  
they gave me vinegar to drink.

- The same here the beginnings of the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

**Question** – What can we take from this?

- The glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The awesomeness of Jesus.
- His willingness to go to the cross for these who denied him – betrayed him – deserted him – hated him.

We all have fallen in to one of these at one point in our lives.

Question – Do we take the time to look back and appreciate what Christ has done for us.

As we pick up our cross and live for Christ.

**Question** – What happens if we are betrayed?

- Jesus knew in every way.

We are to look to Christ in the midst of this.

We can reflect on the life of Joseph and in particular this statement – ‘What you meant for evil; God has used for good.’

Us to know God is accomplishing His plans and purposes in our lives.