

The Garden & Betrayal – Part 1 The Betrayal of Jesus in the Garden

Matthew 26:46-56; Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:2-12

The Religious Leaders had been made to look ignorant and sinful as Jesus sat in the temple and interacted with them before the people that week. This had been going on all during Jesus' ministry. (Matt. 50; John 8:42-45; Matt. 23:1---Woes) In Matthew 26:3-5, the decision had been made to take Christ after the Passover, so not to cause a revolt of the people against themselves. But to their surprise, Judas came to them within days and offered a way to take Jesus during the Passover (v. 14-16). Suddenly the time table changed! Now the Religious Leaders just waited for Judas' nod of opportunity!

While Christ's friends were asleep, His enemies were awake and plotting! Through the darkness came a group of armed soldiers, temple police, and one betrayer of Jesus. A lying kiss began Jesus' journey to the cross, but in reality our Savior was in full control.

I. Judas and his Multitude

“(“And immediately, while he yet spake (Matt. 26:45-46), cometh Judas, one of the twelve,” Mark 14:43) which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples. Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees (“and the scribes and the elders.” Mark 14:43; “a great multitude” Matt. 26:47), cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.” John 18:2-3

“Judas, one of the twelve,” – All four Gospels describe him such (John 6:71), this highlights the hypocritical, evil act of his betrayal of Christ. Yet, it shows the great restraint of the Gospel writers. How much more they could have said about this man that had been with Jesus during His ministry. I might have said, you lying, deceiving, backstabbing, defector, you traitor, double-crossing, viper and deserter! But this simple statement shows the understanding and peace the writers had with the plan of God

“knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples.” – Many believe Judas lead the band of soldiers first to the upper room. This is where the young man from Mark 14:51-52 might have joined them. But by the time the group had been assembled, Jesus and the disciples had already left for the garden. Judas knew where Jesus would go for the night and followed Him there. Luke 21:37; 22:39 n “Judas having received...”

“band of men and officers from the chief priests” –

Who are these men? All the different sects of the Jewish leadership were consistently in conflict over doctrine and control, but when it came to the matter of Jesus of Nazareth, they were in full agreement! He must be eliminated! (Mark 3:6 (early in 2nd year of ministry); 11:18 (last week in Jerusalem)) This group of soldiers was from every part of Jewish leadership, political and religious!

How many men? “great multitude” Matt. & Mark; Luke – “multitude” This was a large crowd of Roman soldiers, temple guards and Jewish police. The word “band” is an official word for a Rome group (Cohort) of 300-600 soldiers. They did not come because they had cause against Jesus, they came for crowd control! The Jews were always on the edge of uprising; they were very nationalistic. Rome would send extra soldiers to the Jerusalem garrison, the Tower of Antonia, located across from the temple for Passover week just to keep a close eye and squash any problems before they started. Somehow the Religious Leaders had convinced Pilate that Jesus was a risk for such an uprising. Remember, they had tried to take Jesus on their own

and Christ had slipped away! They wanted to capture Christ if possible and the Roman soldiers would help guarantee that capture!

“lanterns and torches and weapons” – It was night so the “great multitude” carried lanterns and torches through the city streets into the garden. The weapons are described as “swords and staves” in the book of Matthew. The Roman soldiers would be the only ones carrying swords, while the temple guards and Jewish police would only have been allowed to have clubs (staves).

II. Judas and his Kiss The “kiss” is not mentioned in the book of John!

“And he that betrayed him had given them a token (signal), saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he; take him, and lead him away safely. And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to him, and saith, Master, master; (“Hail (Greetings), Master” Matt. 26:49) and kissed him.” Mark 14:44-45 “And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come?...” Matt. 26:50 “...Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?” Luke 22:48

“kiss” – This was a **sign**, mostly for the Roman soldiers who were unfamiliar with Jerusalem and some of them with Jesus. Also, this formal betrayal---turning Jesus in to the religious authorities---made Judas an accuser (witness) in the case against Jesus at trial. BUT he was not available by the time the trials began!

In the **Greek**, there are two types of “kiss” found in this passage. The first kiss, “Whomsoever I shall kiss,” is a simple greeting kiss that would be common at that time in the ancient world for a friend, or a student to a respected teacher. This really would be a normal greeting for a Rabbi. The second, “kissed him” in the Greek was the idea of covering Him with kisses, repeatedly, intense, affectionately, without restraint, warmly, loudly, and for a long period of time. This word is way over the top of a greeting, and I would say, hatefully pointing Jesus out to all those who might not know Him. It is most despicable!

Up to this point the disciples were unaware of the changes ahead but this kiss marked dramatic, life changing realizations for the eleven disciples. First, the true character of Judas; he was the betrayer Jesus spoke of in the Upper Room. But even more disturbing, their true character, as they faithlessly forsook Jesus instead of staying for Him. They truly thought their faith was stronger than it was!

“Master” – Judas was such a wicked man! He was calling Jesus “master”, or Rabbi, yet was betraying the Son of God! In Matt. 7:21-23, Jesus tells of what happens to these types of hypocrites!

“Friend” – Only Matthew mentions Jesus calling Judas “Friend”. Jesus could have called Judas many things. Hypocrite, liar, unfaithful, Satan, but yet Jesus called him friend. Our English word “friend” might be a bit strong to what the Greek word means. Jesus is actually calling him an acquaintance. It was a strange word for someone who traveled with Jesus three years but in this setting much more accurate. In the Upper Room, just an hour before, Jesus had called the eleven disciples His friends, “Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends;” John 15:14-15 But Judas is not acting as a friend of Christ!

“wherefore art thou come?”/“Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?” – About a third to half of the English translations gives, “Friend, do what you came for”. And then Jesus confronts Judas with truth! “Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?” - He was the Son of man, God in the flesh, the Messiah, the

Christ! What a burning statement! Perhaps this began to penetrate Judas' mind! Yet we will never see him truly repent!

III. Jesus and His Power

“Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground. Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way: That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none.” John 18:4-9

A. Jesus' Powerful Name This information is only given in the book of John. He wrote some 50 years after the synoptic gospels (general summary of Jesus' life). John's purpose was evangelism so he adds information left out of the three other books and points specific to his evangelistic theme.

“Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him,” – This “matter-of-fact” statement has actually been a repeated point of the Book of John, the omniscience of Christ. (John 13:1, 11; 13:19)

“went forth,” – Jesus was calm and in total control as He went out to meet the crowd ready for conflict. He had hid Himself when the people sought to crown Him king, (John 6:15) but now, when they were going to take and crucify Him, He met them! He also forced them to say who they were looking for. This did not allow them to take anyone else, including the disciples. They had come for Jesus only.

“I am he”/“they went backward, and fell to the ground.” – Gk – “ego eimi” Jesus will identify with the Old Testament Yahweh! The crowd had called for Jesus of Nazareth, they would never call Him the Christ, the Son of God, but He will name Himself as God!

“went backward, and fell to the ground” – Gk – “fell” – “one overcome in battle by a superior” or “to fall down before a high ranking person or divine being” Just the very power and authority of Jesus' name drew them back. Ps. 27:1-2; 35:4; 40:14 They did not fall to their face in worship but backward in confusion, fear, and dismay. Jesus could have knocked them all dead but instead, for a short moment, He overpowered them, caused an awkward confusion that was not explainable! This was a miraculous moment, whether voluntary or involuntary, this unexpected reaction should have caused even the most harden Roman soldier to tremble before this man in total control and their lack of it!

“And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.” – Judas has switched sides! Judas has revealed who he really was! Now He stood with Christ's enemies as before He was counted with the followers of Jesus!

“Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye?” – Jesus again speaks as one with authority and command. He has asked “Whom seek ye?” two times. This band had no authority to take anyone else; again He forced them to remember it was He they were authorized to take.

“Let these go their way:” – This statement was one of command, a statement of authority! This is important because scripture needed fulfilling! Jesus gave Himself up voluntarily, but protected the disciples! Perhaps still

stunned by the fall and the confusion it would have been, they obeyed Christ, the “criminal”, and let the disciples go.

“That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake,” – John the Apostle described the incident in the garden with these words because it was he that had recorded Jesus statement in the Upper Room. “While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost,…” John 17:12

B. Jesus’ Powerful Touch Only John will give the names of Peter and Malchus and tell of the healing of the ear. For about 50 years this information was left out of the Gospel record.

“Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus and took him.” Matt. 26:50 “When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword? Luke 22:49 “Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.” John 18:10 “And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far (Lt - “Permit even this”). And he touched his ear, and healed him.” Luke 22:51

Remember----all of this happened very quickly!

“Suffer ye thus far.” – The disciples saw what was happening, and perhaps remember the Upper Room discussion on the need for swords now that Jesus would be gone, they immediately asked Christ if they should fight! They had told Jesus that they did have two swords between them! (Luke 22:35-38) In Mark 14:31 the disciples had all said they were willing to die for Jesus! But taking things into his own hands instead of waiting for an answer, Peter swung into action, perhaps to the nearest person to Jesus, Malchus! John is the only Gospel writer who gives this man’s name. We do know that John was familiar with the High Priest’s household and some 50 years after the synoptic gospels were penned gives us his name. Now Malchus was neither a Roman soldier or part of the temple guard but a high ranking slave of Caiaphas the High Priest. Many believe he was perhaps the personal assistant or even the body guard of Caiaphas. Was Peter swinging at Malchus’ right ear!? Of course not, he was looking to smash his head...and God guided the sword off a little to the right! Peter caused such possible peril to himself and the rest of the disciples. What a foolish act! He must have thought he would die for Christ that night. He was ready to take on 300+ trained soldiers and guards. It is a miracle in itself that a soldier didn’t return the favor to Peter—and not miss his head! Jesus didn’t need Peter’s protection; Peter was acting like a political rebel not a follower of Christ! Jesus stopped it and said, “Suffer ye thus far” – Lit – “Permit even this!” Several times the Religious Leaders had desired to take Jesus but He would disappear seemingly miraculously. Now He opens and sets up an easy, unresisted capture! But Peter stepped into the plan of God! Jesus had revealed His plan, He had said to the soldiers, “let these go their way:”.

“And he touched his ear, and healed him.” – Malchus was a man sent by his master to do this dirty work. All four gospels mention the ear being cut off but only Luke tells of Christ restoring it! Again, Jesus shows the proof of His power as well as His goodness and mercy! BUT this miracle was never brought up at His trials, it certainly would not have helped the Religious Leaders’ cause! This action was not a flash, public healing, it just says Jesus quietly reach out and touched the bleeding, painful ear, repairing the consequence of Peter’s foolish act. In his commentary on this incident, Warren Wiersbee said several times that without this healing there might have been four crosses on mount Calvary! And after the touch of healing, then he allowed his Hands to be bound!

C. Jesus' Powerful Call

“Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions (6000x12=72,000) of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?” Matt. 26:52-54 “...the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?” John 18:11

“for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.” – This was actually a Jewish proverb taken from the teachings of Gen. 9:6 on capital punishment.

“give me **more than** twelve legions of angels?” – The verses concerning the more than twelve legions of angels is unique to Matthew. I have always liked the song “He Could Have Called Ten Thousand Angels”. I remember my dad would often sing it. I smile as I realize the song writer was really off by about 62,000 angels! It should be sung, “He could have called more than seventy-two thousand angels”. In 2 Kings 19:35, one angel took on and killed 185,000 men, so more than twelve legions of angels could certainly have delivered Jesus!

“how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?” – **This statement of Christ** is connected to Peter’s violent attack. It had to be stopped and Jesus had to be taken without resistance for prophecies to be fulfilled! Is. 53:7 “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.” Luke 24:44-46; Acts 2:23

“the cup which my Father hath given me,” – Jesus willingly drank the cup of God’s wrath! This was God’s plan and Christ was committed to it! Angels were at His beckon call, but He had a job to do. John 10:17-18 “Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.” Christ is a wonderful example as we are called upon to do some hard thing for God; to move forward in obedience, faith, and hope. “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2

D. Jesus' Powerful Words

“In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, (“the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and the elders,” Luke 22:52) Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me” Matt. 26:55 “...but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.” Luke 22:53 “But all this was done, that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled....” Matt. 26:56

“Are ye come out as against a thief” – The Religious Leaders sent a large band of soldiers and guards to take Jesus, a well-known religious teacher that did spoke against them, like a violent, wild, murderous bandit that would resist arrest! They themselves were acting secretive and violent. Reminding us of Eph. 6:12, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness

of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” This type of activity is characteristic of Satan’s work!

“I sat daily with you teaching in the temple,” – The temple was the most public, well-known, place in Jerusalem! This is where Jesus taught everyday that week, yet they were taking him in the middle of the night. This statement pointed out their motive; they feared an uprising of the populous; they feared their loss of position with the people.

“this is your hour, and the power of darkness.” – In a private meeting with the Religious leader Nicodemus, Jesus said about the darkness of evil “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.” John 3:19-21 The Religious Leaders chose this hour because their great fear was an uprising among the people. They had always wanted to take Jesus quietly. (Matt. 26:5) “Nighttime was a fitting hour for the servants of the power of darkness to be a foot.” JMcA p. 436 This type of activity is characteristic of Satan’s work! We as believers should not live this way! I Thess. 5:5-7

“But all this was done, that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled...” – **Don’t miss this, Jesus said these words.** This phrase was not written by a gospel writer in comment to the happenings, but instead spoken by Christ to the great multitude of soldiers, temple guards, Jewish police, Judas, and the eleven disciples! “But all this was done, that the **Scriptures of the prophets** might be fulfilled...” What a wonderful evidence of the deity of Christ! What a wonderful evidence of His commitment to the Scriptures! As we have said, the idea of the fulfilling of scriptures is a consistent theme of the book of John but this is written in the Gospel of Matthew! Why?? Because it is a theme of Christ! Matt. 5:17-18

IV. Disciples and their Run

“Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him.” John 18:12 “...Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.” Matt. 26:56 “And there followed him a certain young man, having a linen cloth cast about his naked body; and the young men laid hold on him: And he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked.” Mark 14:51-52

“Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.” – As the soldiers moved in to take Christ, it was obvious by His redoing of Peter’s attempt to save Him, that He was not resisting arrest and they might be captured as well. Their faith in Him collapsed and they fled! This was prophesied by Christ in John 16:32, “Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone:...” This was the plan of God and the best thing for them to do!

“certain young man,” – details are interesting - When studying these verses in Mark my first thoughts were, what a random story, what intimate details, and why did this make it into the pages of Scripture?! Much of what is written about this passage is speculation, so we must be careful not to build too much into the basic story line. A “**certain** young man” (age 24-40) is a strange description, and most believe the writer Mark is relaying

a his personal experience from that night. The details are specific—linen cloth, hold on him, fled naked. Many believe the Upper Room was part of Mark's family home. If Judas brought the band of soldiers there first, a young Mark might have followed them to the garden, whatever the case, this short narrative shows the cyanotic scene in the garden at the arrest of Christ. Notice, this "certain young man" held on to Jesus but also fled leaving behind his cloth!

Believer's Application:

1. The healing of Malchus' ear – A miracle of non-effect? Concerning this miracle, pastor and Bible teacher John MacArthur in his book One Perfect Life states, "This is the only instance in all of Scripture where Christ healed a fresh wound. The miracle is also unique in that Christ healed an enemy, unasked, and without any evidence of faith in the recipient. It is also remarkable that such a dramatic miracle had no effect whatsoever on the hearts of those men. They carried on with the arrest as if nothing peculiar had happened." p. 435 How could this be? How could such a miracle be of non-effect?

- Because Jesus' arrest was the plan on God and nothing would stand in the way of God's redemptive work. It really could be said, this having no effect is a miracle!

BUT

We really don't know what happened to those individuals within the crowd after that night, what happened to Malchus and his family, what the effect really was. His memory had to burn with the reality of what happened! We can have faith in the fact that God's words and actions are never without effect. We will need to wait until eternity to hear the rest of the story!

But, as I contemplated this incident and the words of John MacArthur, I thought about how many wonderful works and miracles God has done in my life and I asked, "Were there any of non-effect?" Do I take for granted God's blessings and His gentle, evident hand leading my life? I found myself rehearsing in my mind God's goodness, and thanking Him for the miracles He has done on my behalf!

If honest, I'm sure of all of us could be more mindful of God's goodness, speaking to others of His mercy, and committed to humbly praising Him for all He has done in our lives! Nothing God does for us should go with no effect! Our heart should praise God as the old, warrior King David did in his last Psalm. Ps. 145 – READ

2. Peter and his sword – Taking things into his own hands? Peter's whole approach to Christ's capture and death was very wrong! He had been fighting the will of God long before he gave a swing at the head of Malchus! Earlier that night he had been sleeping instead of praying, talking instead of listening, boasting instead of fearing, arguing instead of learning, rebelling instead of submitting, and now fighting instead of running! Here we see Peter at war with the wrong enemy with the wrong weapon! Even when Jesus was actively surrendering, Peter was staging an attack! In all of this, I think of the old hymn "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus". Peter was certainly standing up for Jesus in this incident, but like the third verse of the song says "the arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own:" In every aspect Peter was trusting his mind, his heart, his motives, ...his flesh! Peter was not obeying Christ; he was not walking in faith; he was not Christ-like! Jesus had made His plan for the disciples very plan, He even controlled the arresting crowd by telling them to let the disciples go, yet Peter would have nothing to do with it! But let's not get too hard on young Peter! Can't we easily do the same thing? Push ahead, canive, plan, maneuver, and drive our lives right pass

the will of God! And in the end, like Peter, we will get the wrong result! We are not capable of running our lives apart from God. Jer. 10:23 “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” We need the hand of God to guide us. The familiar verses, Prov. 3:5-7, give us an outline to follow the guidance of God. “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.”

1. Trust the Lord – (v.5) Rely on, depend on, have faith in God We say we trust God for providing our salvation but for directing, and leading our lives we take over. We act like this is our life to direct and forget the words of Paul in I Cor. 6:19, “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and *ye are not your own?*” (Italics mine) We are bought with the price of the blood of Jesus, therefore we need to be glorifying God both in body and attitude. We must depend on Him for our daily lives, seek Him for our future, and trust His perfect plan for the winding road of our past!
2. Don’t lean on your own thinking - (v.5) Prov. 28:26 “He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.” Devising your own life plan is a fooling act! A wise person walks after God, seeks God’s best, and patiently waits for God’s direction. Listen to Ps. 37:3-7 “Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord, and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.” Our thinking is flawed, God’s thinking is perfect. Go with God!
3. Seek God for all your plans – (v.6) Jesus taught in His model prayer, often called The Lord’s Prayer, to pray this way, “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.” Staying within God’s will should be our deepest, heart’s desire; even as we saw Jesus pray in the garden, “not my will but thine be done”, this should be our consent prayer. We must “acknowledge” God in all our ways, meaning, know God, seek Him, and then shall He be able to guide your steps!
4. Walk with God – (v.7) Peter might have been in the presence of Jesus, but he certainly was not walking in step with Jesus! But when we are quick to live a life pleasing to God we will be in tune to His desires for us. Walk with God and you will be in step with Him! Psalm 37:23 “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.”

Like Peter, we may not understand the way of God in our lives, but I love the reminder of the last verse of “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”, “To Him that overcometh a crown of life shall be; He with the King of Glory, shall reign eternally.” Let’s commit not to take things into our own hands but to be a wise person walking after God, seeking God’s best, and patiently waiting for God’s direction.

3. Living in the “power of darkness” – How do we as believer’s live here? Our first reaction to the darkness of the world and the consistent pressures of sin and godlessness can cause us to fear and even lose hope. But we must REMEMBER several facts concerning God and our earthly walk.

1. Our life is but a short time of trials and tribulations and eternity is forever!
2 Cor. 4:17-18; Rom. 8:18
2. We are under the watchful, protective, and sovereign eye of God. Ps. 121; Titus 2:11-15
3. Christ found Himself taken by those under the power of darkness; He is our example.
I Peter 2:18-23