

The Lord of Glory Hated

Mark 14:1-2, 10, 43-50, 53-65

Sinister and stealthy ...

I. Unimaginable Humility

- A. Willingness of Christ
- B. To Suffer and Die
- C. The Son of God

II. Unmitigated Hatred

- A. Wiles of the Devil
- B. And Lawless Men
- C. The Sovereignty of God

III. Unfathomable Love

- A. Withholding Mercy
- B. For Our Sakes
- C. The Passion of God

... seizing the moment.

Children, Listen ...

1. What did the chief priest and scribes try to do to Jesus?
2. Who "entered into Judas" Iscariot, the one who betrayed Jesus?
(Luke 22:3)
3. Why was Jesus willing to be hated by men?
4. What did the hatred of lawless men lead them to do to Jesus?
5. How do we know that the love of God for sinners is above and beyond all the wickedness we heard about today?

Love Wins ... and Hell Shudders

The degree of hatred leveled against Jesus by "lawless men" in the period of his passion is nearly impossible to fathom. What prompted such loathing? You would almost think the devil was behind it all – and indeed – in a way he was. Jesus makes this plain when, upon his betrayal and arrest He says to the conspirators: "this is your hour, and the power of darkness." Satan's hand is clearly evident throughout the narrative. But this is not to let man off the hook – this was the work of evil men who, for a variety of reasons, despised Jesus enough to push for His execution. It is almost as if they are a collective and condensed personification of the depravity of all mankind all at once concentrated on the person of Jesus. Yet above the blackest darkness of the Murderer and his kingdom and the darkest impulses of sinful man's heart is the sovereign plan of Almighty God. While God is never responsible for sin any more than He is complicit with the dark deeds of the devil the disgraceful treatment of the Lord of Glory fits perfectly into His plan of salvation for sinners like us. Summarizing the sinister plot in his first sermon, Peter puts it this way: this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. Acts 2:23 The vile plans of wicked men are legion – and the sovereign plan of our awesome God consumes them all for His infinitely glorious purposes. The case of the cross is classic: When the ultimate deed of darkness is finally done - the eternal plan of salvation is accomplished! And Jesus cries "it is finished!"