

Lighthouse Bible Church

September 7th, 2014

John 18: 1 – 11 *Scripture Reading: Luke 22: 47 - 53*

‘Jesus meets His enemies in the garden’

Stand – Read – Pray

As we have been studying the book of John, we have been constantly reminded that John is presenting Jesus as the Son of God, God in human form. So what John records under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ from that perspective of Him being God in human form. He continues that presentation of Jesus as we begin looking at Chapter 18.

Chapter 18 is a turning point in the book of John. Jesus has been ministering for about 3 years and has called His 12 Apostles to follow Him. As we have seen, one of the 12, Judas Iscariot, betrayed Him to the Chief Priest and Pharisees, the religious leaders of Israel, for 30 pieces of silver.

And as we have also seen, this betrayal did not come as a surprise to Jesus, as God in human form, He knows all things, as we will see Him say again in Verse 4. This was something that had been written and prophesied several places in the Old Testament and was known to Jesus. Remember in **Psalm 41: 9 even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.** And of course Jesus said earlier in **John 13: 18** when He was talking about choosing Judas, **I do not speak concerning all of you I know whom I have chosen but that the Scripture may be fulfilled ‘he who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.**

What is about to take place in the betrayal, arrest, trials, sentencing, torture, death and burial of Jesus, was also not a surprise to Him. As we shall see, He is controlling every single event leading to the cross. And again as we shall see, He predicted these events and they were also prophesied and written in the Old Testament scriptures that He will fulfill. *Isaiah 53, Psalm 22, Acts 2: 23*

What Jesus has been predicting and telling His disciples, is about to happen. He told them several places but in **Luke 18: 31 – 33** He says to them **we are going up to Jerusalem and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. They will scourge Him and kill Him and the 3rd day He will rise again.**

He is going to the cross, not as a victim, not by the schemes of men but by the **predetermined foreknowledge of God** as **Acts 2: 23** says and in full control of everything that will take place. We need to understand that. He came to die and all of the events leading to His death are controlled by Him. This is the pinnacle of human and redemptive history, the cross. And we see it start in Verse 1.

Verses 1 - 2: when Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron where there was a garden which He and His disciples entered. And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place for Jesus often met there with His disciples.

After Jesus finishes speaking to His disciples in chapters 13 – 16 and after He finishes praying to the Father in chapter 17, He and the disciples **went out**. They left the upper room, at some point, after the meal and singing a hymn they headed for a **garden**.

They made their way down the side of the mountain, crossed the **brook Kidron**, in the Kidron valley, and came up the other side of the mountain, **Matthew 26: 30** calls the **Mount of Olives** to enter a garden that **Matthew 26: 36** identifies as the **Garden of Gethsemane**. (*oil press*).

Jesus and His disciples, Verse 2 says, **often met there**. As a matter of fact **Luke 22: 39** says that **He went out to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed and His disciples followed Him**. In **John 7: 53 – 8: 1** it says **and everyone went to his own house but Jesus went to the Mound of Olives**. That was His home.

By the way, there is an interesting parallel between what Jesus has just done and what King David did so many years ago. David a type of Jesus. **2nd Samuel 15: 23, 30** record David leaving the city of Jerusalem and crossing the brook Kidron and ascending to the Mount of Olives because he was betrayed by a familiar friend Ahitophel.

And it was a place, Verse 2 also says, **that Judas knew about.** Judas had to know the place because he knew that he could betray Jesus there with relatively few people and few ways to escape. But that wasn't Jesus plan, Jesus knew Judas knew the place and knew that He would go there because He knew everything that was about to happen and planned every part of it.

Yes He went there for rest, yes He went there to pray and yes He went there to minister to His disciples, but this time He went there knowing Judas would be coming soon, and he does, look at Verse 3.

Verse 3: Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

Judas knew the place and how many times have we read that 'the religious leaders wanted to arrest Him but they couldn't or didn't'. **Mark 12: 12 & Luke 20: 19** both say **they wanted to arrest Him but they feared the people.** Well, Jesus made it easy for them by being in the garden. No people, other than the disciples. That is why Jesus said in **John 10: 17 – 18 ...I lay down My life...no one takes it from Me...** Jesus went to the obvious place for Judas to find Him.

Remember in the upper room where Jesus told Judas ‘what you do, do quickly’. Jesus knew what He was going to do and made it easy for Him to do it; all in God’s plan.

Look who Judas brings with him in Verse 3. **A detachment of troops and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees.** Both Roman soldiers and representatives of the Jewish leadership, the Sanhedrin, came with Judas. **Matthew 26: 47** adds that **a great multitude with swords and clubs** came out to meet Jesus. A **detachment of troops** could have been as many as 1000 men not counting the temple **officers**, many carrying swords, clubs, torches and lanterns to confront Jesus and His 11 disciples. It looks like a little overkill.

Matthew and Mark both say that Judas had a pre-arranged signal to point out who Jesus was. He said **whomever I kiss, He is the one.** And you remember that Jesus said in return in **Luke 22: 48** **Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?** Then look what happens in Verses 4 - 7 of John 18.

Verses 4 – 7: *Read*

John writes **Jesus therefore knowing all things that would come upon Him went forward and said to them, ‘whom are you seeking?’** John does what He has done all along, he is showing that Jesus is God in human form and he does it hear by letting everyone know that **Jesus knows all things that would happen to Him,** He is omniscient, all knowing. None of this is a surprise to Him and because things need to be set in motion, He **went forward** to lay down His life, to give His life, a ransom for many.

So Jesus steps forward and asks **‘whom are you seeking?’** He already knows, He wants them to articulate that so that He can protect His disciples as we shall see. **Verse 5** says **they answered Him ‘Jesus of Nazareth’.** That is who we are looking for.

Then Jesus says to them **I am He**, although the He is in italics and not in the original manuscript. He says 'I am' and as we have seen before that is the title for God. Then at the end of **Verse 5** it says **and Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them**. John had just said in Verse 2 'Judas, who betrayed Him' and now he says it again just 3 verse later. That is how they want Judas remembered.

He **stood with them**, he was in agreement with them and lead them to the place where Jesus would be betrayed and arrested and later killed. He was there the whole time. Then look at **Verse 6**. It says **now when He said to them 'I am He' they drew back and fell to the ground**.

You know why John mentions that Judas was there; and remember that we saw earlier that **Satan Himself entered Judas**, right. Because when Jesus mentions His own name **they all drew back and fell to the ground**, including Judas, indwelt by Satan. He had no power over Christ and Christ is in control of everything. He wanted the disciples to know, He wanted the people that came to arrest Him to know and He wants us to know that He is in control.

Listen, they did not arrest Him, He gave Himself to them. He went willingly to carry out God's divine plan. Can you imagine that? About 1000 people just suddenly falling to the ground. They come against Him with swords and clubs and He can defeat them with just the mention of His name. He is not a victim, He is in control. It reminds me of **Philippians 2: 10** that **at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess Jesus Christ as Lord ...**

If you think about Jesus and the spoken word, think about how many times He merely spoke and things happened. From creation; when ...**and God said ...** saying **peace, be still** and the wind obeys Him to saying **come out of him** and no demon could do otherwise. And one day by His spoken word He will **judge** the unrighteous world and **condemn** them to eternal punishment. And they just got a small taste of the power of His words.

Then in **Verse 7** it says **then He asked them again ‘whom are you seeking’?** And again they say **Jesus of Nazareth**. They get right back up and when He asks, they say the very same thing and this time they were probably holding on to each other. And the reason He asks them twice is so that it is established that they have come, by orders of the High Priest, for Jesus alone and no one else. Look at Verses 8 - 9.

Verses 8 - 9: Jesus answered ‘I have told you that I am He, therefore if you seek Me, let these go their way.

Somewhat implied in this statement is ... **let these go their way** or else. Why is Jesus so concerned with His disciples at this point? **Verse 9** tells us. **That the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, ‘of those whom You gave Me I have lost none.**

Remember that Jesus did say that earlier in **John 6: 39** when He said **this is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing.** He said in **John 10: 28** **I give them eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.** In **John 17: 12** He said **those whom You gave Me I have kept and none of them is lost...**

Had the disciples been arrested, they would have probably been killed and then the work that the Lord had for them to do, could not be done. The message could not be spread. They needed to be protected and allowed to leave, **to go their way** when Jesus is arrested.

But also, in the spiritual sense, when Jesus said **I have lost none** He was talking about their spiritual salvation remember? So Jesus is saying ‘let these go because if they get arrested, tortured or killed, I will lose them, not only physically but spiritually. You say ‘wait a minute Dale, are you saying someone can lose their salvation’?

That's what Jesus is saying here, if it were by the strength of the disciples, they would lose it. But their salvation and our salvation don't depend on our strength but on His. That is why He keeps them and protects them and doesn't let them get arrested. Just like He keeps us and protects us because in our own strength we would lose our salvation but through the protection and strength of Jesus, we can never lose it; just like He said in **John 10: 28 – 29** and many other places say.

Jesus knows what would cause each one of us to lose our salvation, so He never lets that happen; kind of like **1st Corinthians 10: 13** **there is no temptation taken you but such as is common to man...** But Jesus keeps us and preserves us like **Romans 5: 10** says. **For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more having been reconciled we shall be saved by His (what) life.** He ever lives to intercede for us and never lets anything destroy our relationship with Him and He protects us and strengthens us; because if He didn't we couldn't stand.

So Jesus commands the Roman soldiers and the temple police to let these go, not allowing them to get into something they couldn't handle on their own. So who is in control? Then look at Verse 10

Verses 10 - 11: **Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. So Jesus said to Peter 'put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?'**

Seeing what is about to happen, Peter pulls out a sword to keep Jesus from being taken. **Matthew 26: 50 – 51** says that **they had grabbed Jesus to take Him away.** In **Luke 22: 49**, the parallel account of this it says **when those around Him saw what was going to happen they said to Him 'Lord shall we strike with the sword?'**

And of course Peter, not wanting to wait for an answer and acting impulsively as he often did, pulls out his **sword** and begins to slash out at the servant of the high priest. By the way that word for sword is *machaira* which is a small dagger type knife.

So he was real close to this guy and you have to give him credit for being willing to take on over 500 + people. But that courage was short lived, wasn't it? But he found out that he was not as courageous as he thought he was because in just a few hours later he would be standing at a distance from Jesus and one little girl comes up to him and denies Jesus 3 times.

But for now, maybe because of Christ's display of power, Peter is thinking 'if I get in trouble, the Lord is right here'. And Jesus is probably thinking 'I just got them to not arrest you and now look at what you are doing'.

So Jesus says to Peter in **Verse 10 Peter put your sword** away. **Matthew 26: 52** adds that He said **for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father and He will provide Me with more than 12 legions of angels.** A legion consisted of 6000 soldiers so 12 legions would be 72,000 angels.

And somewhere in there **Luke 22: 51** says that **Jesus touched his ear and healed him.** He created a new ear for him and I am sure in the frenzy of things, maybe only a few saw it, but Malchus knew what had happened to him.

But after each display of His power the crowd does not say or do anything as a result of it, but that is what sin and hard heartedness towards Christ does. They saw 2 displays of His power and should have fallen down and worshipped Him, but they didn't. They are, again, the living example of what Jesus said earlier in **John 12: 37** **although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him.**

Then Jesus says at the end of Verse 11 put away your sword **shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?**

He says, ‘Peter, this is God’s plan for Me, we have talked about this from the foundation of the world, put your sword away’. Notice that Jesus calls His going to the cross and His suffering and dying a **cup**.

Remember when He was in the garden earlier and prayed to the Father in **Luke 22: 41 – 42** if it is **Your will take this CUP from Me**. He knew that it was God’s will for Him to go to the cross and die for the sins of the world, that is why He says ‘shall I not drink the cup’.

By the way, the ‘cup’ is a term used for the wrath and judgment of God in both the Old and New Testament. You see it in **Psalm 11: 6, Isaiah 51: 17, Jeremiah 25: 15, Matthew 26: 39, Revelation 14: 10 & Revelation 16: 19**

Jesus is saying ‘I must drink the full cup of the wrath and judgment of God’ and He did, didn’t He, when He was on the cross. Even though He suffered greatly, even though His Father forsook Him, even though the disciples forsook Him, even though the Jews would mock Him and scourge Him, He would willingly die the death, suffer the wrath of God, suffer the fury of the cup of His indignation.

And He would do it in obedience to the Father and His great love for His own, including you and me. Like many in that crowd that did not recognize Jesus for who He was and what He was about to do FOR THEM, many today are the same way. The Bible says in **Romans 5: 8** **God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.**

Prayer and the Lord’s Table

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Introduction and Review:

Psalm 41: 9, John 13: 18, *Isaiah 53, Psalm 22*

Acts 2: 23, Luke 18: 31 – 33

Verses 1 – 2:

Matthew 26: 30, 36, Luke 22: 39, John 7: 53 – 8:1

2nd Samuel 15: 23, 30

Verse 3:

Mark 12: 12, Luke 20: 19, John 10: 17 – 18

Matthew 26: 47, Luke 22: 48

Verses 4 – 7:

Philippians 2: 10

Verses 8 – 9:

John 6: 39, John 10: 28 - 29, John 17: 12

1st Corinthians 10: 13, Romans 5: 10

Verses 10 – 11:

Matthew 26: 50 – 52, Luke 22: 41 – 42, 49, 51

John 12: 37, *Psalm 11: 6, Isaiah 51: 17*

Jeremiah 25: 15, Matthew 26: 39

Revelation 14: 10, Revelation 16: 19, Romans 5: 8

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