

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Betrayal and Arrest in the Garden

Last time...Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane

This time...Jesus' betrayal and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane

We will in all 4 Gospels, starting in Mark 14

Mark 14

v43 cometh Judas...great multitude...token...kiss:

Jesus tenderly watched over His disciples while they slept, who were
physically and emotionally drained from this momentous day and night
When Judas was nearby, He woke them up

Now, Judas Iscariot (one of the twelve so we make no mistake as to the identity
of the betrayer) shows up...and he is not alone!

With Judas is an armed (swords and clubs) multitude, on a mission as if they were
after a violent criminal

This is purely a Jewish multitude, nothing about it is Roman

- leadership
 - chief priests
 - scribes
 - elders
 - Pharisees
- law enforcement (Temple “Police”)
 - captain
 - officers
 - soldiers

This is a case of “mistaken Identity” with grave consequences

Is 9:16 For the leaders of this people cause *them* to err; and *they that are* led of
them *are* destroyed

True in Isaiah's day, true in Jesus' day...true to this day

v44 given them token...kiss...take...safely:

Leading the way to the place where Jesus and the 11 disciples were is Judas
His pre-arranged plan to ensure the right man was taken called for a sign:
the betrayer to kiss the target

kiss: a friendly and affectionate greeting common in the Middle East

The betrayer was on friendly/"kissing" terms with the multitude's target

When the target was identified by Judas' kiss, He was to be

- taken...using strength, seized by force
- lead away safely...securely, so He does not get away

His enemies came at night, outside the city, and in great force
But, how would they find Jesus?

John 18

v1-3 Judas...knew the place:

Jesus and His disciples frequented the Garden of Gethsemane, a private garden
owned by a wealthy man, Joseph of Arimathea perhaps
Judas had been there with Jesus numerous times; he knew that is where they
could find Jesus this night

The multitude is called a band/"cohort" in John's account – 500 men

The armed band of men moved in the night by the light of lanterns and torches
They have rejected Jesus, The Light of the World (John 8:12, John 9:5)
They do not trust/believe the Word of God, which is the Sword of the
Spirit (Heb 4:12, Eph 6:17)

v4 knowing all things...went forth:

Who is all-knowing, seen and unseen, past present and future?
Who is Jesus?

Here comes marching to the Garden of Gethsemane over 500 men,
carrying lanterns and torches and armed with swords and clubs

What did Jesus do?
He "went forth"

- not surprised
- not fearful of man

Taking the place of the greatest danger, He steps forward to stand between the
band of not-so-merry men and His 11 disciples

Like the shepherd boy David did to the lion and the bear,
standing between any/all beasts and his sheep
Like the Good Shepherd He is (John 10:11-15)

And He asks a simple question: Whom do you seek (to take)?
Asked without anger or fear but with a peace that surpasses understanding

Who is in control of the scene in the Garden of Gethsemane?
Neither the devil nor Judas nor the Jews
Jesus is

v5 I am...Judas...stood with them: T
The band of man declare their target –
Jesus of Nazareth (a man, not the Messiah), not “You.”
They did not recognize Jesus
Why not?
Blinded in sight by the darkness as they were in heart by
another darkness

They believe Jesus is a man from Nazareth, a blasphemous man that was
a religious and political danger to the nation

They do not believe Jesus is from heaven,

- God become man as He had repeatedly declared and demonstrated
- the long-promised Seed of the Woman, the Son borne of a virgin
- the Messiah, the Christ

Jesus says, “I am.”

The “*he*” in KJV is italicized, indicating it is not in the original manuscript

Recorded in the Gospel written to the Church, presenting Jesus Christ as
the Son of God, are the “I AM” statements of Jesus Christ

I AM the Bread of Life (John 6:35)

I AM the Light of the world (John 8:12)

I AM the Door (John 10:7)

I AM the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)

I AM the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)

I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)

I AM the True Vine (John 15:1)

I AM (John 8:58-59)

What Jesus said in John 8:58, He says here – He is the LORD,
so much more than just “Jesus of Nazareth”

And we see Judas...where?
With the enemies of Jesus
His affiliation is very clear

v6 they went backward and fell to the ground:

When God speaks to man, one of two things happen

- humbled man falls on his face in fear and reverence and worship
 - Abraham in Gen 17
 - Joshua in Joshua 5
 - Jehoshaphat and Judah in 2 Chron 20
 - Ezekiel in Ezk 1, 3, 9, 43, 44
 - Daniel in Dan 8
 - Peter, James, and John in Matt 17
 - cleansed lepers in Luke 5, 17
- God “pushes over” proud rebellious, defiant, irreverent man
 - Eli in 1 Sam 4
 - 500+ including Judas here

With the spoken words “I am” came Divine power that pushed back and knocked down the approx 500 men

On unmistakable display is the power of Jesus Christ

To those who doubt His Identity, Jesus leaves no doubt!

And with it, in light of Scripture (2 Peter 3:9, 1 Tim 2:4), an opportunity to repent, to reconsider and make a correct choice regarding Jesus

v7 Whom see ye...Jesus of Nazareth:

The band/multitude is given an opportunity to repent and...they do not take it.

They still seek Jesus of Nazareth, a man who claims to be equal with God!

They are not seeking the LORD

They are opposing themselves, rejecting Jesus’ offer of the gift of repentance (2 Tim 2:22-25)

v8-9 I am...let these go...lost none:

Jesus, knowing all things that should come upon Him, knows why they are here

They came in great force for Him but He is giving all the orders!

God is in control in the Garden of Gethsemane

If you seek to seize Me by force, let My disciples go free.

Your issue is with Me, not with them.

Thereby fulfilling His Word recorded in John 17:12

Now here comes the son of perdition to give the pre-arranged sign

Mark 14

v45-46 Master, master and kissed him...took him:

Jesus has established His authority over the situation in the Garden of Gethsemane

He has given the multitude an opportunity to repent

The plan of the chief priests and their accomplice Judas is not deterred

Judas, once he gets back on his feet (!), proceeds directly to Jesus and

- said, “Master, master”...twice is for emphasis; his duplicity (stab in the back) is actually emphasized
- kissed Him...earnestly, an exaggerated demonstration (for show, to make sure the onlookers see the pre-arranged sign)

And with the sign duly given, the Temple authorities grabbed/seized Jesus...roughly, no doubt

We get more detail in Matthew’s account

Matt 26

v49 Hail, master and kissed Him:

Matthew records Judas’ “greeting” of Jesus as, “Hail, Master”

“Hail” was a peaceful and cheerful greeting

Judas is a liar and an actor/hypocrite as well as a betrayer

How bold is evil, even in the very face of God?!

v50 Friend, wherefore art thou come:

Mark does not record Jesus’ response to Judas’ “cheerful”, kissing greeting, but Matthew does

Jesus calls Judas, “Friend”...a gracious and kind response

Bear in mind that

- Jesus knew Judas was a devil (John 6:70)
- Jesus humbled Himself to lovingly wash Judas’ feet (John 13:1-5)
- Judas had been expelled by the time Jesus said John 15:13-15

So Jesus' tone of voice was gentle to His betrayer and the multitude with him, like

1. a Shepherd caring for His sheep
2. a sheep led to the slaughter

Then Jesus says, "Why are you here?"

Jesus knows why but He gives Judas every opportunity come clean and repent

But...His merciful opportunity is rejected and He is seized.

Ps 41:9 Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me

Luke records other details of the scene

Luke 22

v47-48 went before them...betrayest thou the son of man with a kiss:

Judas is on point, leading the band/multitude to where he knows Jesus will be
As he approached Jesus to "give the sign", Jesus steals his thunder by exposing the rouse/lie/betrayal before it happens

Should this not have stopped Judas Iscariot in his tracks?!
What is the depth of evil in man's heart?
Just how deceitful and desperately wicked is man's heart?

Jesus has said one of the 12 was going to betray Him this night
He now publicly identifies His betrayer to the other 11 and they respond...
in the flesh

v49 saw what would follow...Lord, shall we smite:

The 11 could see clearly that things were about to get very ugly...
and their immediate reaction is to fight violence with violence

Remember v35-38

Therefore, Lord, do we fight? ("We will die with you!")

v50 one of them smote...cut off his right ear:

One of the 11 did not wait for an answer from Jesus and impulsively took matters into his own hands

Carrying one of the two swords, this disciple cuts off the right ear of the high priest's servant

Where did this happen?

On the periphery, the disciple and the servant standing next to each other?

In the middle of the skirmish-about-to-be?

How did the servant's right ear get cut off?

Was the disciple left-handed?

Did the servant dodge the incoming sword that otherwise would have struck his head or shoulder?

Was the servant armed with a sword or a club, or was he unarmed?

v51 Suffer ye thus far:

Jesus answered the question of the 11 disciples in v49, and responded to the rash attack by one of them in v50 by commanding,

“Stand down.”

“Leave him (the servant) alone.”

And, He made right the wrong of the one disciple by healing the servant of the high priest, making him whole (ear as it was before the attack)

To one of His enemies, who has been caused to err by his leaders,

Jesus is loving and compassionate (Matt 5:44)

To His disciples, Jesus is still teaching by example

This is the last healing miracle by Jesus before the Cross

Only Dr. Luke records this miracle

Would this...not only what Jesus did but also the love and kindness with which He did it...not have stopped everyone in their tracks and caused them to re-think their plan to betray and arrest?

This miracle of healing by Jesus and His demonstration of compassion and love and mercy should have “arrested” this entire event.

The Pharisees, elders, and soldiers should have fallen on their face at the feet of their Creator to plead for mercy and worship Him

How deep is the evil in man's heart?

Just how deceitful and desperately wicked is man's heart?

Matthew records more

Matt 26

v51-52 take the sword...perish with the sword:

Jesus has more to say about the sword wielding than just “Stand down.”

1. In this tinderbox moment, He teaches His disciples that violence is not the answer to violence.

- a. Violence begets violence

The followers of Jesus Christ are given another kind of sword

Heb 4:12 Word of God

Eph 6:17 Sword of the Spirit

2 Cor 10:3-5 not carnal

- b. (I don't need your help, you need My help.
And the problem you see is not the real problem.)

v53-54 pray...more than twelve legions...must be:

Two more lessons for the disciples

2. If He wanted to fight these 500 men He has already knocked down with His spoken Word, He would merely ask His Father for some special forces support from heaven

$12 \times 5000 = 60,000$ angels

One angel killed 185,000 Assyrians during the reign of King Hezekiah
(2 Kings 19:35, Is 37:36)

Even just one angel could make this Jewish band look like a troop of
Girl Scout Brownies

Thinking linearly, $60,000 \times 185,000 = 11.1 \text{ B}$ “killing force” of angels
i.e. all of humanity, much less this mob, could not stand before
60,000 angels

Jesus' refusal to use OVERWHELMING force to save His life is
undeniable proof that His death was voluntary
John 10:17-18

3. The prophetic Scriptures foretelling of His death MUST be fulfilled
Luke 24:44-47

In John's account we are given details not recorded in the other accounts

John 18

v10 Simon Peter...Malcus:

John records who the sword-wielding disciple was – Peter!

Simon “I will die with You!” Peter is ready and willing to go to war with 500 men, a demonstration of great courage and faith, knowing the power Jesus has (He just knocked them all down to the ground with His spoken Word!)

But...within ~30 minutes he will cower before a maiden who will finger him for a disciple of Jesus, exposing his fear

John also gives us the name of the high priest’s servant attacked by Peter and healed by Jesus – Malcus

Why?

Is Jesus Christ filled with compassion for the lost sheep of Israel?

Does Jesus love His enemies?

Did Jesus bless someone who cursed Him?

Did Jesus make whole (save) rather than condemn and destroy?

Did Jesus return good for evil and overcome evil with good?

Does Jesus’ sword pierce Malcus’ heart?

Will Love conquer hate and violence in Malcus’ heart?

Will we meet Malcus (and maybe some of the 500) in heaven?

v11 the cup...shall I not drink it:

Jesus asks Peter a question that will no doubt stick in his mind for the rest of his life on earth:

The cup (of suffering and violent death for all mankind, Is 51:17, 21-22) which My Father has given Me (neither Jews nor Gentiles give Me) shall I not drink it (obey My Father, regardless of Personal cost)?

In asking the rhetorical question, Jesus is telling Peter, the disciples, and us that there is no turning back, He is

- committed
- resolved
- not in the least reluctant

to lay His life down as the Father’s (Substitute) sin sacrifice for our sins

I don’t have to do this; 12 legions of angels is an option for Me.

I want to do this, I want to...I will...do My Father’s will (John 17:19).

I came to seek and save the lost, I came to be lifted up (John 3:14) and draw all men unto Me (John 12:27).

Jesus now turns to rebuke His enemies, the leaders in particular who have caused the people to err and are leading them to destruction (Is 9:16)

Luke 22

v52-53 as against a thief...daily with you...your hour...power of darkness:
Speaking to the leaders of the band (chief priests, captains, elders),
Jesus calls them out for

1. coming after Him with such force, as if He were a violent robber
(a nature He has NEVER exhibited, one they are exhibiting now)
2. having “passed” on many opportunities to take Him in the Temple
(their jurisdiction), but all those opportunities were
 - in broad daylight...not where darkness operates
 - before thousands of witnesses...not how darkness operates

Those things are so because this is their hour, this hour belongs to them and to the power of darkness/unbelief (Satan’s)...
the hour of the devil and his children

The devil lost the battle against Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane,
but this is his hour with man

“Synchronized”, moving in parallel, now are

1. God’s will
2. Satan’s will
3. Man’s will

God’s will being done on earth as it is in heaven is spoken clearly in Matt 26

Matt 26

v55-56a all this was done...scriptures...fulfilled:

After rebuking the leaders of the band, Jesus says things have happened this way because...God foretold they would happen this way

All ya’ll are fulfilment of Scripture! (Whoa!)
God spoke of you guys a long time ago to His prophets

God is in complete control of all that is going down, but...

v56b disciples forsook...fled:

Then, just as Jesus foretold them this very night, the 11 abandoned Him and fled,
fearing for their lives

Jesus was not resisting arrest and fighting back...this is God's plan!!!
Then, Jesus is arrested

John 18

v12-13a took Jesus and bound...led Him away:

The Jewish band seizes Jesus, tied Him up, and led Him away...
to "trial" before the high priest

Did the ropes bind Jesus, or did His love for them and you and me?

One final detail is recorded in Mark

Mark 14

v51-52 certain young man...fled from the m naked:

With the 11 disciples is a unnamed youth, who, when grabbed by the Temple
Police, slipped out of his garment and fled away naked

Who is this youth?

This Gospel is Peter's, written down by Mark;

Speculation has it that young man is Mark himself, who at the time would
have been a young teenager.

But Scripture does not say

Application

Very poignant application, for both believer and unbeliever

Believer

1. Jesus is ALWAYS teaching us...are we ever-teachable?

Even while He was being betrayed by a friend and being arrested, Jesus was still teaching His disciples!

And He is teaching us in EVERY circumstance, no matter how dire

a. Look at Me, not the circumstance

Circumstances are fleeting, the Lord is forever!

No circumstance is bigger than the Lord!

b. Trust Me, I got this!

To repeat last week's application: It takes more faith to surrender to the

Father's will than it does to cry out to Him to do something for you

2. Be-Christ-like in every circumstance

Taught by Jesus' example in a tinderbox:

Violence begets violence

Violence solves no problems

Love conquers violence

Satan is a liar and a murderer

Hatred and fear and violence is his *m.o.*

God is Love

Compassion, meekness, goodness, kindness, and gentleness is His *m.o.*

Love wins!

Nothing, including Satan, can separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus

Our marching orders as soldiers in the Lord's army,

the ministry of The Bride of Christ,

what followers of Jesus are commanded to do:

Be Christ-like – do as Jesus both did and said

- Turn the other cheek
- Love your enemies
- Bless those who curse and persecute you
- Overcome evil with good

3. Evil is mind-blowingly great...Jesus is far greater

Jesus bore the weight of ALL the evil of all places and all times in all hearts

Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound, so focus on Him and rejoice!

Jesus is MUCH greater than the present evil

4. Boldness

How bold is evil, even in the face of God!

We, God's children, should be at the very least just as bold

- entering into the presence of the Lord (Heb 4:16)!
- witnessing of Jesus

Unbeliever

1. Whom do you seek?

Are you seeking

- love
- peace and happiness
- help in a time of intense pressure and difficulty
- victory over the addictions that plague you

Listen carefully to a still small voice saying, "I am."

That is Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, speaking directly to you!

Will you

- fall forward in broken humility to receive Him
- be pushed backward because you do not receive Him

Your Maker is giving you an opportunity to come to Him and be reconciled unto Him

He will not always strive with you

Today is the day of salvation!

Please – fall forward!

Confess...agree

Repent

Receive