

Holy Thursday 2021, 6pm
“Past, Future, Present” – Rev. Markus Wegenast

Reflection on Matthew 26:17-56 (dramatically read in roles)
Sit on stool before altar that narrator used previously

1)

Read title...this is what I'd like to talk about with you

- Would you say that you live differently when you trust God holds your past & knows your future? How?

Story of Jesus' last night (meal, (footwashing), prayer in G, arrest) is steeped in tradition/past.

- Not a random week: Passover (Isr. Remembers delivery from Egypt & angels passing over for the last plague)
- J follows the tradition of his culture/religion/society, celebrates PO and makes arrangements for it
- Why bother having a dinner party? J knew what the night was going to bring?! How can you sit back and celebrate when you know you'll be arrested, tortured and killed?
- Do you think J had the future in mind, how people/us would make the connection?
 - > delivery from angle of God's wrath and slavery – delivery from sin and our bondage?

2)

I don't know that, but I know Jesus gave instructions for the future:

- **Read from Bible V31** (you'll all fall away tonight...resurrection, Galilee)
- He had already predicted the future several times (Leidensankdg., finding the donkey(s))

Would it excite you to have a friend who can sovereignly predict the future? (there's a reason why horoscopes are popular or why some like to predict the exact time of Christ's return)

- For Jesus knowing and sharing w's happening in the future had purpose: not to show off but to fulfill scripture. > **read V. 56**

3)

In story of PO Thursday, we find that past and future meet. Jesus ties his whole last act of his public ministry into the deep tradition of God's story with Israel. And he connects it with the future.

- I believe that shapes how we live in the present.

You may argue: disciples weren't all that affected – they still were confused!

- Maybe that's a clue: as fascinating as it is to have someone predict the future – it may not be all that helpful! (e.g. Pandemic and toilet paper...)
- But think about what it ultimately accomplishes when Jesus puts his present into the context of the past and connects it with the future:
 - It creates faith and trust. It helped the disciples eventually (Judas couldn't benefit from it bc he took his life. Thomas needed extra help > Pastor Dave will talk about him). It helped millions of followers later when they reflected on it.

We are here today and my prayer is that we too are strengthened in our trust that God is at work in this world and loves us. Contrary to disciples we get to look back and see how everything played out according to plan.

What about your personal plans? Do you feel your life story is held in God's plans/ that he who knows y. future walked with y. in the past & leads y. today? Does that give you hope and strength for today? This is my prayer for us. Let us pray.