

WHEN YOUR WORLD TURNS AGAINST YOU Part 1

from *And the Angels Were Silent* by Max Lucado

Get up, we must go. Look, here comes the man who has turned against Me.

The words were spoken to Judas. But they could have been spoken to anyone. They could have been spoken to John, to Peter, to James. They could have been spoken to Thomas, to Andrew, to Nathaniel. They could have been spoken to the Roman soldiers, to the Jewish leaders. They could have been spoken to Pilate, to Herod, to Caiaphas. They could have been spoken to every person who praised Him last Sunday but abandoned Him tonight.

Everyone turned against Jesus that night. **Everyone.**

Judas did. *What was your motive, Judas? Why did you do it? Were you trying to call His hand? Did you want the money? Were you seeking some attention? And why, dear Judas, why did it have to be a kiss? You could have pointed. You could have just called His name. But you put your lips to His cheek and kissed. A snake kills with his mouth.*

The people did. The crowd turned on Jesus. We wonder who was in the crowd. Who were the bystanders? Matthew just says they were people. Regular folks like you and me with bills to pay and kids to raise and jobs to do. Individually they never would have turned on Jesus, but collectively they wanted to kill Him. Even the instantaneous healing of an amputated ear didn't sway them. They suffered from mob blindness. They blocked each other's vision of Jesus.

The disciples did. "All of Jesus' followers left Him and ran away." Matthew must have written those words slowly. He was in that group. All the disciples were. Jesus told them they would scamper. They vowed they wouldn't. But they did.

When the choice came between their skin and their friend, they chose to run. Oh, they stood for a while. Peter even pulled his sword, went for the neck, and got a lobe. But their courage was as fleeting as their feet. When they saw Jesus was going down, they got out.

The religious leaders did. Not surprising. Disappointing, though. They were the spiritual leaders of the nation. Men entrusted with the dispensing of goodness. Role models for the children. The pastors and Bible teachers of the community. "The leading priests and the whole Jewish council tried to find something false against Jesus so they could kill Him." Paint that passage black with injustice. Paint the arrest green with jealousy. Paint that scene red with innocent blood. And paint Peter in a corner. For that's where he is. No place to go. Caught in his own mistake. Peter did exactly what he had said he wouldn't do. He had promised fervently only hours before, "Everyone else may stumble in their faith because of you, but I will not!" I hope Peter was hungry, because he ate those words. Everyone turned against Jesus. Though the kiss was planted by Judas, the betrayal was committed by all. Every person took a step, but no one took a stand. As Jesus left the garden, He walked alone. The world had turned against Him.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BELEN

Pastor David Guerrero . Pastor Ernest Sanchez

March 7, 2021

Finally brothers & sisters,
whatever is **T** rue, whatever is **H** onorable,
whatever is **R** ight, whatever is **P** ure,
whatever is **L** ovely,
whatever is **C** ommendable,
if there is any excellence & if anything
worthy of praise, think about
THESE THINGS.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Welcome to Church!

If you are a first time visitor, please fill out a "Connect Card" and visit our Connection Desk. We would love an opportunity to get to know you better and encourage you in your spiritual walk, as well as answer any questions! Contact Information for our Pastoral and Office Staff is provided on our website at www.fcbelen.net, or you may call us at 864-8621.

Activities for the Week

Sunday - March 7th

Spanish Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.
Bible Study - 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
Young Adults @ the Sanchez' home - 7:00 p.m.

Monday - March 8th

Church Office Closed

Tuesday - March 9th

Ladies Bible Study - 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday - March 10th

WMU - 5:00 p.m.
Deaf Fellowship - 5:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Study
Children's Ministry
Choir Practice
Rooted Youth
6:00 p.m.

Thursday - March 11th

Friday - March 12th

Saturday - March 13th

Prayer - 8:00 a.m.

Deacons of the Week:

Deck Goodman
Red Flett

Safety Team - March 14th:

Terrence Bock
Jeremy Bock
Cindy Tinnin



SALVATION
is not a REWARD
for the **R**ighteous,
it is a GIFT
for the **G**uilty.

- Steve Lawson -



The mission moves forward

Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer Sunday, March 7th - Sunday, March 14th

Across North America there are 366 million people. It's a daunting challenge to reach such a diverse mission field of cultures, languages & religions. Add the uncertainty of a pandemic & you begin to realize the challenges faced by your N. American Missionaries. Against all odds, they continue to move forward in their gospel mission & see lives transformed.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS NEEDED

Camp is a great place for fun, wonderful memories and life-changing opportunities as we endeavor to point young people closer to Christ. It is a purpose filled time to break down barriers and build bridges with our young people in order to help them grow deeper in their faith.

Camp offers us a Great opportunity to Invest in Our Youth!

"Show me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths." Psalm 25:4

- ◆ A minimum of eight scholarships are needed
- ◆ Cost: \$265.00/Camper
- ◆ Full or Partial Scholarships are Greatly Appreciated

If you would like to help us send our youth to camp, please designate **Camp Scholarship** on your donation. **Thank you** for all you do!

The Church Office will be closed Monday, March 8th for meetings.

First Baptist - God is Love.

Isn't that grand!

Love you all...Eleanor

Baby Church: The P - 5 classroom is open to all parents/grandparents with babies.

Young Adults: Join Pastor Ernest & Rebecca - Sundays - 7:00 p.m.

Ladies Bible Study: Tuesday, March 9th - 9:15 a.m. - Faith Building

Wednesday Night Activities: Come Join Us! Adult Bible Study - Youth - Deaf Fellowship - Bible Study - Children's Ministry

Prayer Meeting: Saturday, March 13th - 8:00 a.m. - MAC

Sermon Notes and Children's Bulletins are available at the Connection Center Desk.

SPRING
FORWARD

REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD

Saturday, March 13th - Before you go to bed!

Church Office Hours

Monday: Closed. . Tuesday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm . Friday: Closed