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Luke 22

The Plot to Kill Jesus

([Matthew 26:1-5](#); [Mark 14:1-2](#); [John 11:45-57](#))

1Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover.

Passover was instituted by God through Moses. It was a succession of miraculous events by which God changed the heart of Pharaoh to let His people go. When Pharaoh refused to let the Israelite slaves go free, to go to their promised land, God sent 10 plagues. The 10th plague was that of the “Passover”. Called that because God sent the angle of death into Egypt to take the life of all the first born of anyone who would not follow His commandment of that night.

The Israelites were told to kill an unspotted lamb, to save the blood but roast the meat over an open fire. They were instructed to use certain herbs and to prepare bread with no leaven in it for a meal that evening.

They were to apply the blood of the Lamb to the door posts of their dwellings that evening. That was a prophetic symbol of what was to come thousands of years later.

The angel of death would “pass over” any home that had the blood of the lamb on its door post but for those that did not have the blood He would take the first born both of human and animals from every family. The Egyptians of course did not abide in that “pass over” so they all, including the Pharaoh, lost their first born. That loss finally caused Pharaoh to release the Israelites to begin their journey to the Promised Land. Remember, Israel’s bondage all came about due to their refusal to walk in obedience and worship God as instructed.

Being released from Egypt was a symbol of being released from bondage or sin. The cause of that release from sin was the sacrifice of a pure lamb and its blood protected those who believed it would and did as God commanded them to do.

The term “unleavened” means to be pure untainted by foreign substance such as leaven; so, the Feast of Unleavened Bread was to remember what happened on Passover in Egypt for Israel. God showed Israel Love, Mercy and Grace to His people in that day and now shows us that same Love, Mercy and Grace in this day.

2And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill him; for they feared the people.

Pretty abrupt change in context; from Jesus coming to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover to the religious leaders planning to kill Him due to their being afraid of the people. Their true fear was loss of power and the people were the ones who could take it away. They were not afraid of God.

3Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. 4And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them. 5And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money. 6And he promised, and sought opportunity to betray him unto them in the absence of the multitude.

Judas from the root word according to Strong's Concordance

Transliteration: yadah

Phonetic Spelling: (yaw-daw')

Definition: to throw, cast

We see that specific example of an event in two ways; Judas would throw or cast Jesus aside for money. When He realized what he did Judas threw the money back into the temple and went and hung himself. The meaning of the root name is fitting.

The sin of betrayal of the God of creation; the Son of God is covered in 4 verses, how easy is it to fall into the trap of sin. How

quickly our hearts can be overwhelmed by the world and what we deem important; money, power, prestige, you name the sin and Satan is more than willing to help you along.

The Last Supper

(Psalm 41:1-13; Matthew 26:17-25; Mark 14:12-21; John 13:18-30)

7Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed. 8And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat.

By God's Law the Passover was to be celebrated on the 15th day of Nissan the first month of the Jewish year. On this particular Passover it fell on a Thursday. Remember, that during the Passover or Feast of Unleavened Bread there are meals throughout that entire week. There is only one that is specifically called the Passover meal and it is always on Nissan 15.

The chronology of the events was this;

Thursday; Nissan 15, Passover meal; Jesus eats the last supper with disciples on Thursday Nissan 15

Friday; is called the Day of Preparation; preparation of all necessary food for the coming Sabbath. Sabbath is always on Saturday. Preparation Day was the day that Jesus was accused, never found guilty but scourged and crucified and placed in the tomb.

Saturday; Sabbath, Jesus was entombed the night before on Friday the same day He was Crucified.

Sunday; first day of the week, Jesus is raised from the dead.

9And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare? 10And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in. 11And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? 12And he shall shew you a large upper room furnished: there make ready. 13And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover.

However, God prepared the heart of the owner of this house is a mystery; it was as He said it would be. How many things in life do we encounter and wonder how that came about? God has a way of preparing people's hearts like He did each of us to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.

The Lord's Supper Instituted

(Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

Since the Law was given, I do not believe any other event or practice has been instituted besides Baptism and the Lord's Supper. They are both outward public signs of believing and being obedient to Jesus; neither saves you. There is only one

thing that saves you and that is the Blood of the Lamb and your faith in that Blood and what it did. It is Jesus's blood shed for you.

14And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. 15And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: 16For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

Q. What be fulfilled?

There are a couple of keys; what did the Passover commemorate and what did it forecast as a coming principal of salvation?

The Passover commemorates God passing over the Israelites based on their obedience in slaying a lamb without mark or blemish and putting its blood on the door post of their homes.

The perfect sacrifice that God would use as a symbol of His undying love for His own Bride Israel. God would sacrifice His only Son out of Love for mankind; a free gift to those who would accept it.

It forecast the same principal in a spiritual manner. When we accept the Blood of Jesus the perfect Lamb of God without mark or blemish; He was sinless in God's eyes and his sacrifice translated His sinlessness to us; our debt is paid in full.

The blood of Jesus is put on the doorposts of our hearts for God to see that we are believers and have been Saved by the Blood of the Lamb.

For this event to be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God, I believe it is talking about the wedding feast of the Lamb with His Bride the Church. That will be the fulfillment of what Jesus is telling His disciples about what is to come. He will then eat the Passover meal and drink from the fruit of the vine as He did with the last supper He had on earth before His Crucifixion.

17And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide *it* among yourselves: 18For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.

Jesus declares here His intent not to do this again until His Bride is with Him and the Kingdom of God has come. As Christians we think that the Kingdom of God is already here; but it is an “already, not yet scenario”. We experience many things that will be common when the Kingdom of God is come in its fulness but not just yet. Jesus will come back to earth and establish that final moment when He stands once again on the Mount of Olives and vanquishes His enemies for a thousand years. Then the Kingdom of God is fully established here on earth.

19And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake *it*, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. 20Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup *is* the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

The body and the blood of our Messiah was to be shed in order for eternal life to be available to mankind. God's desire is that none would perish, but that all would come to a saving knowledge of Jesus the Christ.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Ezekiel 33:11

Say to them: 'As surely as I live, declares the Lord GOD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked should turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

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21But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me *is* with me on the table.

There is no reason give as to why Jesus revealed this aspect of the betrayal. Jesus knew exactly who was going to betray Him and it was prophesied as Mike said last week by Jeremiah. It appears as if He is letting the other disciples know that there is a traitor among them.

22And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed! 23And they began to inquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing.

We have discussed at length the idea of predestination; are our lives so ordered by God that we have no choice we are either selected before we were born to be saved or we have free will and make a decision to be saved or not. When you consider Judas, it has all the earmarking's of a predetermined outcome in his life. That he had no choice but to be the betrayer.

What choices did Judas make in his life that put him on this path to be the one human being that would forever be known as the one that betrayed Jesus Christ the Messiah? Was he born for exactly this event to betray the Creator of the Universe?

The disciples talked among themselves trying to identify the one who would betray Jesus. It was apparently not obvious to any of them as to who might betray Jesus; therefore, the discussion.

Did Judas consider what he was doing for some time or did it just happen out of thin air? Based on what we know of how Satan operates it was likely a long progression of things with Judas that brought him to betray Jesus; however, we are told by scripture that a certain point Satan entered into Judas.

Luke 22:3 Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.

John 12:4 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's [son], which should betray him, 5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? 6 <1161> This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein

I think we see a combination of things that Judas put himself in a position to be used by Satan. He had a propensity based on the John 12 to steal money from the purse that he was in charge of for the ministry.

Judas in my opinion had decided that his decisions were of a higher nature than anyone else's. I also believe that is consistent with many people who commit crime, they see themselves as being of higher importance than those they steal from for whatever reason. I doubt Judas just started stealing when he became a disciple. Jesus knew exactly who and what he was before He invited him to follow Him, and that no amount of Truth would ever change this man's heart.

Now I am speaking extra-Biblically here, there are no verses that tell us this; I am speaking from experience in dealing with people who are criminal by nature, who are so calloused in their spirit that it takes extraordinary events to change their hearts if even

possible. Judas strikes me as such; he was a ripened target for Satan to do the unthinkable; to betray the one who loved him.

You can make up your own mind as to the treachery in Judas heart that would bring him to this point that allowed satan to enter into him and commit the offense that is unspeakable. The fact is that is what he did.

But let's not be too hasty in dismissing the potential for evil amongst any of us. We are all capable of being misled, misleading others and even committing acts that are sinful, and we know they are sinful. The disciples were not above petty self-serving actions as we will see next; not that any of us are above that.

24And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.

This strife among them must have been loud enough for Jesus to hear or He simply knew their hearts; either way, it was apparent that they were each trying to position themselves to be seated at the highest seat available in the Kingdom of God. Jesus, therefore has to flush out their head gear so to speak, and get them to think the right way.

25And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise

authority upon them are called benefactors. [26](#)But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. [27](#)For whether *is* greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? *is* not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

Jesus threw cold water on the idea of hierarchy within the Kingdom of God. Jesus was here to be a servant; He served God first and in doing so He served what God loved and that was man.

Those whom we serve are set above us; so, whom do we serve?

We should serve everyone else; Sarah Mast was an amazing example of this, and I gave her such a hard time about it, but it was her servants heart that was then her nature. She refused to eat before everyone else had eaten as just one example and there are many in her life as servant. I would stand their waiting for her to eat and we both went without any food for a short period, her out of love and compassion, me out of stubbornness and just messing with her. Sarah should be an example to all of Christianity; I would never say this in front of her as she is so humble, I am afraid it would hurt her heart, but she is the epitome of a true servant of God and a servant of what God loves; in my observation. Of course, we can add in Robert to this equally as well, the only exception is that Robert will go ahead and eat (just kidding), but usually after anyone that wants to eat does. They are

a gift from God to anyone that knows them. Robert and Sarah both possess that beautiful gift of serving others first.

28Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations.

Here we find an excellent example of a word in today's vernacular and understanding that has one meaning but when spoken by Christ and interpreted into English it takes on an entirely different meaning.

The word from verse 28 is "Temptation". According to Strong's Concordance;

Transliteration: peirasmos

Phonetic Spelling: (pi-ras-mos')

Definition: an experiment, a trial, temptation

Usage: (a) trial, probation, testing, being tried, (b) temptation, (c) calamity, affliction.

Part of the use gives us the idea of being tempted but the real essence is to be tested or tried sometimes called the Passion of Christ. I suppose in a way He was tempted to simply call down a legion of Angels and destroy all of mankind for their treatment of Him, but I think in the truest sense of the word what Jesus endured He had already committed to long before it happened. He would not walk away from this trial under any circumstance. It is the kind of determination He wants us to have. We are to never

turn our backs on Him regardless of the circumstance; the trials that we all will endure. If anyone ever had the right to say enough and end it all it was Jesus, we have not suffered anything like He suffered.

The disciples needed to grasp that ideal and carry it with them to their graves. They would be tested as well and all of them fulfilled their end goal, they ran the race and it will be such an honor to meet them some day. We must be strong in Christ, for ourselves and our families. We cannot let anything sway us, to some people we are the only example of Christ and His love they may ever see. They may reject our belief now, but stay strong, not overbearing but in Love and it will draw them in when we least expect it.

29And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; 30That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

The simple word that makes this possible to be at feast with Jesus is in verse 28; “Continue”

Strong’s Concordance explains it like this;

Phonetic Spelling: (dee-am-en'-o)

Definition: to remain, continue

Usage: I remain, continue.

1265 *diaménō* (from [3306](#) /*ménō* "to remain," intensified by the prefix [1223](#) /*diá*, "thoroughly") – properly, fully remain; thoroughly abide; to continue on completely, to remain throughout.

It is the act of obedience; to “continue” is the physical act of carrying on the act of obedience; the things that Jesus has asked us to do. Serving others is one example, putting others ahead of ourselves is another concrete thing we can do as we walk out obedience to Jesus, by Continuing with Him.

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

[\(Matthew 26:31-35; Mark 14:27-31; John 13:36-38\)](#)

Let's ground these next verses before we get to them. Jesus had just gently chastised the Disciples for trying to assert which of them would be the greatest. That was right after quasi identifying there was a traitor among them. He now gets specific with Simon Peter.

[31](#)And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired *to have you*, that he may sift *you* as wheat:

This is likely another confirmation that Satan is still in Heaven and is called into God for an accounting from time to time and as usual he is the accuser of the brethren. Jesus knows that Satan wants to “sift” Simon Peter and He tells Simon that. I can only assume that would get one's attention to know that you have come to the attention of Satan. Anytime the Bible talks about

someone that comes to the attention of Satan it usually involves some pretty hard trials. One that comes to mind is Job. Satan brings the allegation of failure on the part of humanity; God asks Satan if he had considered Job. Satan responds that the only reason he loves you is that you have given him everything. God says; test him, you can take it all away, but you can't touch him. We all know the rest of the story.

It appears when your name comes up between God and Satan, you'd better gird up your loins; it's coming.

Jesus was telling Simon likely due to his outspoken behavior on following Christ that he was going to be targeted by Satan. That in itself is a lesson. If you are NOT being buffeted by Satan maybe you're not a threat? I don't recommend you go picking a fight with Satan, just doing God's Will, usually brings some unwanted attention your way.

32But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Who better to have praying for us than Jesus the Lord? And to pray that our faith not fail; it is back to that word "continue" continue in your faith **regardless** of the circumstances.

Now comes a crucial phrase from Jesus; “when thou art converted”. Strong’s Concordance says that word means to “come back”. The point being that Simon was going to deny Christ not once but three times and then fully grasping his failure would run off discovering as we all should that we are worthless human beings, deserving nothing but death. We are frail, sinners, who cave in at the slightest hint of challenge and run off like a dog with our tail between our legs to whimper and shake. Peter was going to learn all of that, but Jesus knew Simon Peter would come to his spiritual sense and once the blood was spread and the power of the Holy Spirit was available to believers he would become a ROCK; Petra, that Jesus would build His Church upon.

33And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. 34And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

I repeat this many times over, that you need to settle the matter in your own minds that you will not surrender, you will NEVER GIVE UP, NEVER SURRENDER; you will trudge, crawl inch by inch with your last breath refusing to let go of Christ REGARDLESS of the circumstances. I will likely repeat that a few thousand more times before our Lord returns.

35And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.

This was a rhetorical question as they all knew that Jesus had sent them out as a training exercise that touched others lives and touched their own lives. And they all knew of the outcome for each of them. They knew the power of the name of Jesus but still had much to learn. He is now going to issue some new marching orders.

36Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take *it*, and likewise *his* scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.

Would you believe that this verse has a lot of controversy? For some reason many teachers and commentators feel the need to dissect these sentences setting aside part and leaving the rest. The part they feel compelled to set aside is “and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.” There is a Bible interpretation philosophy that says; “If the scripture makes plain sense, seek no other sense” a good Bible hermeneutic to use in study?

So, let’s take the verses as stated;

If you have a purse or carrying device like Mike's man purse then take it with you, likewise if you have money in it take that with you as well.

“and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.”

Can we all agree that Jesus told the Disciples that if they had a purse or bag to take it along and if they had money to take it along as well. The contrast was when He sent them out the first time, He told them not to take anything but to rely on the God that He would provide their needs through hosts.

Likewise, in the same sentence He told them if they did not have a sword to sell something and buy one; can we agree on that?

So, what was to change between the first time they went out and what was coming?

Jesus would be brutally killed. Was that how they were to deal with the Roman's; kill them? Nope, He did not tell them to kill anyone. A sword can be a defensive weapon as well as an offensive weapon. Far more formidable in that day than a staff which many people had to ward off undesirable contacts with animals or people, but the staff was far more defensive than offensive unless in the hands of the Jedi or Kungfu masters as we all know. (Just kidding)

We are not told of any event wherein the Disciples used a sword to defend themselves or to be aggressive toward someone else, except one place. Anyone know when that was?

It's coming up in a few verses;

***[49](#)When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword?
[50](#)And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. [51](#)And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.***

Perhaps we need to consider why the difference in what Jesus had said to His disciples and what He demonstrated when one of His disciples employed a sword in defense of Jesus. Why would there be such a difference?

I think Jesus was committed to carrying out His mission without resistance. He could call down a legion of Angels to destroy all those who sought His death, but that would not allow the mission to be completed. There was only one way; He would have to die on a cross after being badly beaten. After Peter struck the Temple guard and cut off his ear, Jesus has to restrain Peter verbally.

Matthew 26: [54](#)But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

Jesus clearly tells His disciple that he should not interfere in this process.

The show of force by His disciples would only get in the way of His carrying out His mission. His disciples had taken what He had said to heart and lashed out at anyone that would dare to take their Messiah. Was it indeed this physical sword that Jesus wanted His disciples to wield?

So, what was the idea to sell your cloak and buy a sword about?

Therein lies the controversy; many commentators rejecting that Jesus actually wanted them to obtain weapons. So, if that is true what was Jesus point?

Ok, here is the conclusion I have come to. The Bible teaches us about 3 types of swords.

1. The Military or Law Enforcement sword
2. The personal protection sword
3. The Spiritual Sword

Let's start with the Military or Government Sword;

Roman's 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Leviticus 24:16 And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. When he blasphemes the name of the

Lord, he shall be put to death. ¹⁷ ' Whoever kills any man shall surely be put to death.

God put human government on earth to carry out certain tasks and enforce laws that He created, and that mankind added to. The supreme law as it relates to taking a life is covered in the 10 commandments; "thou shall not murder". Murder is loosely defined as the shedding of innocent blood. The most severe is premeditated or killing another human out of vengeance. Those are both prohibited by God. God uses the government to carry out the recompense for murder at least in most civilized countries.

The second sword was that of personal protection;

Exodus 22:2 "If the thief is found breaking in, and he is struck so that he dies, there shall be no guilt for his bloodshed. ³ "If the sun has risen on him, there shall be guilt for his bloodshed.

The premise and it still exists in law today and that is to break into a dwelling (a place where people live and sleep) at night time carries a more significant penalty under the Burglary laws than does a daytime burglary. The thought being that a person is totally defenseless when asleep and is usually incapable of defending himself or herself. So, the penalty today is more severe. According to Exodus, the nighttime burglar could be killed by the homeowner without legal implications; not so in the

daytime. Even though the word “Sword” is not mentioned it would be included as a weapon of defense for the homeowner.

Nehemiah 4: 17 They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a **weapon**. 18 For the builders, every one had his **sword** girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me.

Esther 8:11 By these letters the king permitted the Jews who were in every city to gather together and protect their lives -- to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the forces of any people or province that would assault them, both little children and women, and to plunder their possessions...

This personal sword or weapon of choice was meant as a defense against violent adversaries who intended to kill or harm you or your family.

I know we all get angry when we see people destroying or stealing other people’s property, but you will find in the Bible that did not give rise to killing those so doing. Neither does our law of today. Today it is pretty clear that to take a human life you must be in fear of your life or the life of another, not your property or the property of another.

Now to the third and the most important sword; We find the answer in Ephesians 6:17

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

When Peter used the sword that he had to cut off the ear of the Jewish guard he was rebuked by Jesus. That may all have involved what we already spoke of in not interfering with what Jesus mission and what He had to endure. But is there more to learn?

Does Jesus want Christians to defend themselves? I believe we have shown in our brief look that there are conditions when self-defense and the defense of others is allowed. It pertains only to stopping someone from killing you or someone else. It does not include the defense of property. But that does not answer the question; what does Jesus want us to do?

37For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end.

Jesus' mission was paramount, and He had to succeed at all cost. His life HAD to come to an end to ensure our lives would never end.

In the next verse the disciples can't let go of the sword thing so they asked Jesus a question about how many swords are needed, let's see the conversation.

**38And they said, Lord, behold, here *are* two swords.
And he said unto them, It is enough.**

A couple of points; Jesus in vs 37 just told them that He had to come to an end. Pretty striking message to those that loved Him but what do they ask about? Hey, do we have enough weapons?

Jesus' mind was on completing the mission that He had described to them, but they were focused on the upcoming fight that was brewing.

So, to conclude the issue of swords; there are 3 types of people who wield a sword. Two of the swords are made of steel and can allow man to take a life. The third is made of words and can allow a man to save lives including his own if used properly.

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

(Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42)

39And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.

**40And when he was at the place, he said unto them,
Pray that ye enter not into temptation.**

There are all kinds of temptation but based on what Jesus had been teaching them about what they were to be doing with the rest of their lives I think that one of the temptations was going to be lashing out in anger.

41And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, 42Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

We have talked about this verse and to me it is one of the most important verses in all the Bible. Our very lives hinged on Jesus' willingness to crawl upon the Cross to save us. He was God embodied in this human frame with all of its pain receptors and blood vessels and a mind that could feel all the emotions all humans are capable of feeling. Jesus knows what is coming and His flesh is asking God to spare Him of that immense pain, by; ***“remove this cup from me”***: The next phrase sums up all that Jesus has asked of us and what God expects of us;

“nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”

It is that simple, as we learn about what Jesus want's us to do this has to be our mantra, repeated minute by minute, day by day, year by year. It is not about what we want it is about His Will in our lives.

How real was this event that Jesus knew He would endure;

43And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. 44And being in an agony he prayed

more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

I have never prayed with such earnest that great drops of blood fell to the ground around me. I cannot conceive of the intensity of a prayer such as that. We have all prayed for loved ones to come to the knowledge of Christ, yet no blood has fallen from our brow. We have prayed that God would save a loved one from death, but not great drops of blood have fallen to the ground. I am sure we have all prayed in earnest but never has this happened to any of us. The closest thing I can imagine is that when we pray in such earnestness that within our broken hearts the great pain we feel falls within us and our hearts and our spirit are broken, knowing we are in the presence of almighty God and He hears our Plea and answers with His Perfect Will in that moment. We may not understand His Perfect Will in times of great stress but rest assured He is the Creator God and has your best interest within His might heart.

45And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow, 46And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.

The notion here has been repeated throughout the gospels in many ways; whether you are the watchman on the wall, or out building the wall with a brick in one hand and a sword in the other,

we are to be alert, ready at an instant, constantly on guard, watching out for ourselves, our families and our brothers and sisters in Christ. If you need to take a rest, make sure someone is watching out for your well-being in prayer and conversation with the Master all the time. The reason being;

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

His desire;

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Do you want to grasp the love of Jesus for you, go read all of John 10 and your heart will be blessed.

Jesus' Betrayal and Arrest

[\(Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52; John 18:1-14\)](#)

[47](#)And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. [48](#)But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

A kiss has always been a sign of affection. It has no guile; it is simply a gesture of love from one to another. What a striking turn when a kiss is turned from a sign of love to a sign of betrayal.

The next few verses about the violent response from Peter, we have discussed at length so we will just read them as they are written.

49When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword? 50And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. 51And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.

Where we bring pain and destruction Jesus brings peace and healing. The Sword of the Word of God is capable of immeasurable power as we will see when Jesus by the Word of His mouth destroys the enemies of God.

Revelation 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Swords or weapons of steel have great power but are nothing compared to the power of the Sword of the Word of God. One operates solely in the arena of the flesh the other operates in the flesh and the spirit.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

52Then Jesus said unto the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and the elders, which were come to him, Be ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and staves? 53When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

Lurking beneath the surface of what can be seen with the human eye is the evil of satan and his demoniacs. They operate best unseen, in what we consider darkness. Darkness can either be nighttime or in a realm that is void of light and truth. That is their domain, they can neither see the light nor hear the truth, their master satan has hidden them in this nether world to use them as puppets to carry out his maniacal schemes that including yours and my separation from God. Pray for children and young people that they not be swept away by this evil that is so pervasive in our world today that satan is destroying our youth at an accelerated rate. If Jesus does not come back soon even the elect would be deceived.

Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Perhaps the most discouraging of times for a believer is when we have an opportunity to share the Gospel in Love and we restrain ourselves out of fear of hurting someone's feelings or even worse when we are afraid, we might be rejected. Pray that God will speak through us and defeat this enemy who wants us to stay silent about the truth. Paul had to walk the path that Jesus told him was coming and he had vowed he would never leave or forsake Jesus. Can we all understand and sympathize with Peter in this trial.

54Then took they him, and led *him*, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.
55And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them. 56But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him. 57And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not. 58And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not. 59And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this *fellow* also was with him: for he is a Galilaean. 60And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. 61And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crew, thou shalt deny me thrice. 62And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

I believe the word “bitterly” barely scratches the surface, perhaps inconsolably might come closer. When as a believer we sin against the Love of our lives Jesus Christ, we have not only pierced Him once again, we have lain another stripe upon His body, we have denied Him and our pain is inconsolable.

July 28, 2020

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

[\(Isaiah 50:4-11; Matthew 27:27-31; Mark 15:16-20; John 19:1-15\)](#)

63And the men that held Jesus mocked him, and smote *him*. 64And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him, saying, Prophecy, who is it that smote thee? 65And many other things blasphemously spake they against him.

We have all read these words many times; sometimes they might evoke emotions of anger at the Temple Soldiers, or sympathy for Jesus our Lord. It strikes me that the reason that these words are written here and in the other Gospels is for encouragement for each of us. Jesus knew of the prophecy in Isaiah 50 because He transmitted it to Isaiah. He had already seen this moment and what He was to endure;

Isaiah 50: 4The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season

to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

5The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

6I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

7For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

8He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me.

9Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.

Jesus needed His disciples and us to know and understand the depth of His foreknowledge; He knew exactly what was coming because He has existed with God for eternity and knows what God knows. His flesh had not encountered this beating when Isaiah was written but still, Jesus had seen it. That is why He asked God in the flesh if this cup could be removed from Him, but then added the most amazing words in the Bible; Not my will but YOUR WILL BE DONE.

66And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the scribes came together, and led him into their council, saying,

The Sanhedrin was only allowed to meet in the daytime so this assembly supposedly took place the day after Passover and on the day of Preparation “Friday” preparing for the Sabbath on Saturday. Friday is also the day that Christ was not only judged by Crucified. So, chronology of events so far.

1. Jesus spent about two years working through His Ministry and moving toward Jerusalem and His Crucifixion.
2. Jesus arrives in Jerusalem about a week before Passover;
3. Thursday daytime; Jesus celebrates Passover with His disciples and has the Last Supper with them.
4. Thursday evening; Jesus is arrested in the Garden, held by His captors, beaten and mocked by members of the Temple Guard.
5. Friday morning; Sanhedrin convenes to hold a trial as to whether or not Jesus had violated God’s Law. They inquire of Jesus if He is the Son of God, the Messiah?

67Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe:

In a legal sense; it is today as it was in this day that if you can get a person to freely admit that they committed whatever offense they are accused of then a trial becomes unnecessary. That is what the Sanhedrin was trying to do because they knew they had

no evidence against Jesus. Jewish Law required two or more witnesses and they had none that would testify to the truth.

The question comes did Jesus ever come right out and declare that He was the Messiah the Son of God? Was there someone out there that would come to the Sanhedrin and testify under oath that he or she had heard Jesus declare He was the Messiah. The short answer is no, no one would testify to that. But did He declare Himself to be the Messiah during His ministry?

John 8: Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

That exchange is with some Jews inquiring as to who Jesus claimed to be;

John 8: [48](#) Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil? [49](#) Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me. [50](#) And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth. [51](#) Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death. [52](#) Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death. [53](#) Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself? [54](#) Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: [55](#) Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying. [56](#) Your father Abraham rejoiced

to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. 57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? 58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. 59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

Jesus uses the one of the Titles that God used of Himself; “I am”. Jesus makes this declaration in front of religious leaders and it infuriates them enough so that they intend to stone Him to death. That is not within God’s plan, so God simply moves Jesus from amongst them to safety.

Exodus 3: 14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

Jesus uses the title that God gave Himself in Exodus while talking to Moses seven times in the New Testament each in a metaphor to describe a different aspect of His being and presence.

- 1. I AM the Bread of Life** (John 6:35, 41, 48, 51);
- 2. I AM the Light of the World** (John 8:12);
- 3. I AM the Door of the Sheep** (John 10:7, 9);
- 4. I AM the Good Shepherd** (John 10:11,14);
- 5. I AM the Resurrection and the Life** (John 11:25);
- 6. I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life** (John 14:6);
- 7. I AM the True Vine** (John 15:1, 5).

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As to the clearest proclamation of Jesus to be the Messiah but only to His disciples we find this in Matthew 16;

Matthew 16: 13When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 20Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

The disciples were certainly not going to testify that not only did they believe Jesus to be the Messiah, but He had told them He was the Messiah. So, the Sanhedrin was left to their own unlawful process to convict Jesus of Blasphemy. For Jesus to claim He was the Son of God was not Blasphemy because it was the truth.

68And if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go. 69Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God. 70Then said they all, Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am. 71And they said, What need we any further witness? for we ourselves have heard of his own mouth.

This to the Sanhedrin was the best of this world in that an accused would admit that he was guilty. In this case Christ

acknowledged that they said He was the Messiah and they twisted that to claim He said He was. We know by more extensive accounts in the other gospels that the Sanhedrin did in fact bring witnesses against Jesus, but none were satisfactory to declare Jesus to Blaspheme and declare Himself the Messiah. But the Sanhedrin was now satisfied in their own evil hearts that they accomplished what was needed in their Law. Now they had to convince Pilot that he would have to kill Jesus or face riots and mobs that will burn and destroy their own city if in their minds it was necessary to get the correct government response to their demands. Sound familiar?

Evil is never very original; it demands its evil desire to be with the blood of innocent people or the property of innocent people. I am not declaring what is going on now to be equal with the trial and crucifixion of Jesus I am only pointing out that evil led by Satan the thief has one tactic; to kill and destroy.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

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