

1) 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 disciple entered. 2) And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. 3) Then Judas, having received a detachment of *troops*, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. 4) Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?" 5) They answered them, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. 6) Then – when He said to them, "I am He," – they drew back and fell to the ground. 7) Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?" And they said "Jesus of Nazareth." 8) Jesus answered, I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way," 9) that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You have given Me, I have lost none."

INTRO: 'Mob' to me connotes a large number of people acting in a disorderly or unlawful manner. I do not like mobs. I have been greatly inconvenienced by an unruly mob in Mankato, MN, protesting the Viet Nam War back in the 60's. (ask me another time) So I do not have much good to say about that mob in Gethsemane on Maundy Thursday night, long ago. Mobs can foster feelings of helplessness.

I. GOD HAS GREATER POWER THAN MOBS

A...power over that mob in Gethsemane

1. Judas, guiding the mob, was a member of it
 - a. Mt/Mk/Lk armed w/knives and wooden clubs = not Roman soldiers
 - b. officers from chief priests – v.3
 - c. Lk – multitude; Mt & Mk – great multitude
 - d. after kiss, Judas stood with them; guide/leader of this mob (infiltrator)

2. Jesus takes the initiative away from this mob
 - a. v.4 – knowing all...came forward...
 - b. Lk.22:48 betrayest thou the Son of Man with a kiss (repent!)
 - c. asks, "Whom seek ye" (What are you people up to?)

3. see what God's word can do
 - a. two Greek words – **aygo ahmee** – I, I am (emphatic, doubled 'I')

- b. fell **backward** to the ground (not forward, worship, faint, Rod Anderson)
- c. v.6 – **When** He said...they fell
- d. Jesus is in charge! Fulfilling sacerdotal prayer (17:12)

B. In so many ways, God has shown His power

1. in miraculous, mighty acts

- a. in Jesus' life: recent raising of Lazarus; healings at Jerusalem; stilling storm on Galilee; walking on water there; feeding 5,000 and 4,000
- b. in God's history: flood of Noah; BBQ at Sodom and Gomorrah; drowning of Pharaoh, Israel's dry crossing and salvation

2. In all creation!

- a. Ps.19 – the heaven declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth...
- b. Ps.14 – the fool hath said in his heart there is no God
- c. many still experience God's power: blizzard (N); hurricane (S); tornado (both)

II. SIN IS EXEMPLIFIED BY THIS MOB

A. As in "My will, not Thine, be done."

- 1. a sin as old as Eve
- 2. practically a definition of sin
- 3. even in God's church (cp. Chief priests' participation)

B. 'Might makes right' philosophy

- 1. troublesome; ingrained in public schools; majority rules RV parks
- 2. agrees with Darwin: survival of the fittest
- 3. even in our churches: majority vote decides doctrine and practice

C. Also, "Everybody else is doing it"

- 1. the argument from peer pressure
- 2. Bible and Catechism call it 'the world'
- 3. this, too, in the church; copying others' music and practices

D. Nobody will notice me in this mob

- 1. do you deny it? How about fast lane on Interstate 2

2. deny this to omniscient God?
3. neither individuals nor mobs can stand before God

III. GOD CAN ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSE **USING** A MOB

A. Through the Son of Man

1. v.9 – this was to fulfill...
 - a. referring immediately to the escape of the eleven
 - b. Jesus is always in charge (“Let these go” and they did!)
 - c. all in accord with **God’s** plan (I lay down My life...)
2. as Jesus prayed in Gethsemane
3. God used Gethsemane mob to crucify the Lamb of God
4. evil instruments for Godly sacrifice
5. from this evil, God made payment for sins of every mob in the world
6. including all ‘mobsters’ then and now

B. For each **person** in the world

1. God rarely comes to each of us in divine power (but He can)
2. omnipotence defeated death and the devil, of course
3. He offers gracious spiritual blessings through His means
 - a. baptism saves (I Peter); regenerates (John 3); forgives and gives the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2)
 - b. Word can create faith (Romans 10:17 so then faith cometh by hearing...)
 - c. earlier that night, instituted: given and shed for you for the remission of sin

CONCLUSION: Jesus taught that the number of people on the road to destruction exceeds the number going to heaven. Our aim is to avoid that mob going to hell. Jesus, the only-begotten Son of God, is the victorious Redeemer. All who trust Him alone for full and free forgiveness will join the heavenly host with Him in heaven rather than the mob going to hell. Amen