

Matthew 27:47-56 The Surrender of Jesus

Well, we are in the second part of last week's study this morning, verses 47-56. The second part of His time in the garden. Since it is the second part we will do a review of last week's study, beginning at verse 36.

After the Passover feast Jesus and His disciples went out to the garden, a place called Gethsemane. **He told His disciples to sit here until having gone away I should pray there. And after taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to be grieved and to be distressed. Then He says to them, "My soul is deeply grieved until death remain here with Me, and watch."** And we spent some time emphasizing to you that Jesus who is without sin, without fault, and yet His soul is grieved and distressed. There is stress and grief wherever Satan is around. You can count on it. As long as we are in this human body, human flesh, there is going to be stress. So He tells them to remain here with Me and watch.

And after having gone forward a little, He fell upon His face praying and saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I myself will, but as You will." We shared with you last week about the purpose for prayer. Prayer is the means by which we express our submission to the will of God. Again, prayer is our means of expressing our submission to the will of God. We can pray whatever we want to pray, but the end result is we pray whatever the Lord's will is. Because when we pray for the Lord's will we line ourselves up with the Lord. Instead of praying to align God up with us, to submit to His will is to align ourselves with Him as He would will.

And He comes unto His disciples and finds them sleeping. And He says to Peter, "In this way were you not able to watch one hour with Me? Watch and pray, in order that you should not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is ready, but the flesh is weak." The spirit is always ready. It is the flesh that is weak. They fell asleep, could not watch with Him. That is the reason, not the excuse. The flesh is never ready. The spirit is always ready and so He is warning them.

Verse 42, **And again having gone away from a second time, He prayed, saying, "My Father if it is not possible for this cup to pass from me unless I should drink it, let Your will be done."** So He is praying for the removal of the cup, the cup of suffering. He is saying if there is any other way to provide for the forgiveness of sins except for the death on the cross, then let Me die the death of the cross, let Your will be done. **And having come, He finds them again sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.** They just had a big Passover meal, four cups of wine, and now they are out in a very stressful situation with Jesus out in the garden, and they fall asleep yet a second time.

And having left them, and having gone away again, He prayed from a third time, having said the same thing. So He prayed the same thing. **Then He comes to His disciples, and said to them, "Sleep on the remaining time and take your rest. Behold, the hour has drawn near, and the Son of Man is being delivered over into the hands of sinners. Rise, we should go. Behold, the one delivering Me over has drawn near."** And then for today with

verse 47, still in the garden, Jesus said, we must go now because the time is near. The betrayer has come. It is time for the main event.

The circumstances in verses 47 and 48. **And while He was still speaking**, He is still talking to them about prayer and about watching, and behold the event is about to take place. **Behold, Judas came, one of the twelve. And with him a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and elders of the people.** You remember Judas contracted with the chief priests and scribes to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. And he knew Jesus was on His way to the garden of Gethsemane to be alone with His disciples. So he goes and he tells them, we can find them in the garden. And so they come with a large crowd.

Now that crowd consisted - according to Luke chapter 22 verse 52 - the crowd included officers from the temple. They are like police officers, security officers from the temple were in the crowd. The crowd also included what is called a cohort of Roman soldiers. John chapter 18 verse 3 says that a cohort was with them, which at full strength comprised of six hundred men. So you have six hundred soldiers and you have police officers from the temple, all part of this crowd coming to arrest Jesus. And notice what we have titled this section, The Private Surrender of Jesus. It is His surrender not His capture. They come and they come up to Jesus.

Verse 48, **And the one delivering Him over gave them a sign, saying, "Whomever I should kiss, it is He; seize Him."** You might have seen in the newsreels in the Middle East where men greet each other by kissing each other on the cheek, especially the Arab countries and some European countries will do this. It is equivalent to our handshake. So the kiss is referring to an act of special respect and affection, much as it is still displayed today in these Arab cultures and among the Europeans. So Judas says, "The One that I walk up to and kiss on the cheek, that is going to be the sign that He is the man that you are looking for."

So it says in verse 49, **And immediately having come near to Jesus, he** (that is, Judas) **said, "Greetings, Rabbi."** Still calling him *Rabbi*, not calling Him *Lord*. **"Greetings, Rabbi." And he fervently kissed him.** And the word for *kiss* is not just your normal word for kiss, it has a preposition attached to it which means *he fervently kissed Him*. He made sure that everybody in the in the crowd saw him kiss Jesus on the cheek as the sign that would identify Jesus as the one.

Now at this point, we read in John chapter 18 verses 4 through 6 where Jesus assured His enemies that He was in control, that is Jesus. Jesus said to this crowd, according to John 18:4-6, **"Whom do you seek?"** So obviously he [Judas] just kissed Him on the cheek, but Jesus wanted to bring this out. **"Whom do you seek?" They said, "Jesus of Nazareth." And He said, "I am."** That is the covenant name of God in Exodus chapter 3 verse 14. **"I am," and they all fell over.** All of them hit the dirt. They got up and brushed themselves off. **He says, "Now who are you looking for?"** See, He is establishing the fact that He could have just left, knocked them all over and left. So His identification to the crowd and His submission to the betrayal of Judas was voluntary. He volunteered himself. So what the Lord was saying was, "You are not capturing Me, I am surrendering." This is to fulfill the Father's will.

Verse 50, **But Jesus said to him, "Friend, upon what basis are you come?"** The word *friend* is not the same word *friend* that Jesus used for His disciples. This is a polite term used for someone that you forgot their name or do not know their name. It is always used of someone who is distant. But it is interesting that Judas is doing this betrayal and Jesus is calling him *friend*.

"Upon what basis are you come?" Then having come near, they laid hands upon Jesus and seized Him. And behold, one of the ones with Jesus, having stretched out the hand, drew his sword and having struck the servant of the high priest cut off his ear. So Peter, full of commitment to defend Jesus. We are told in John chapter 18 verse 10 that it was Peter who drew the sword and cut off the servant's ear, the servant of the high priest. We are also told in John chapter 18 verse 10 that the servant's name is Malchus, who had his ear cut off.

Verse 51, in Luke 22 verse 51, it says that Jesus touched Malchus' ear and healed it. Interesting. Interesting touch of grace. Because everything is being done according to the Father's will, keep that in mind. Jesus prayed for the Father's will to be done and things are not turning out too good. Things are really bad. But Jesus calls him *friend*, but not only calls him *friend*, but also heals Malchus ear that Peter cut off.

Verse 52, **Jesus said to him, to Peter, "Return your sword into its place. For all the ones having taken the sword will be destroyed by a sword."** He is talking here about punishment. He is not speaking about self-defense, or the defense of loved ones or friends from an attacker. Nor was He talking about fighting in the military services for one's country. He is referring to violently taking justice into one's own hands. If you take justice into your own hands, you will be destroyed by the same methods, the sword.

Jesus told Pilate in John chapter 18 verse 36, **"My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews: but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."** So He said, "This is not the place to fight." Interesting, I find that interesting. Interesting principle in light of all the protests that different Christian groups make in this world, different protests, even violent acts for the kingdom of God. And in reality, Jesus said, "My kingdom is not made of violence. My kingdom is not of this earthly realm."

And Jesus made it clear many times. As Paul declared later in the Corinthian church in II Corinthians chapter 10 verse 4, **The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.** So it is divine power, and it is divine strength. The weapons of our warfare are not fleshly. It is not physical. So He tells Peter, "Put the sword back, let My will be done."

In verse 53, **"Or do you think that I am not able now to call upon My Father, and He will provide me more than twelve legions of angels?"** So not only is a sword not necessary because the Father's will is being carried out, but Jesus said there is an alternative to this. "I could call My Father at any time and call upon Him to send help, if I needed help, and He would send me twelve legions of angels." A Roman legion is six thousand soldiers so we are talking in

excess of seventy-two thousand angels could be at the Lord's beck and call to come and save Him from out of this mess if He decided to do that.

In the Old Testament and II Kings chapter 19 verse 35 concerning the Assyrian troops of Sennacherib, one angel killed one hundred eighty-five Assyrians. One angel. We are talking here an excess of seventy-two thousand angels could be at the Lord's beck and call if He should call upon the Father for it.

Verse 54, **How therefore should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that this way it is necessary to happen?** How can the Father's will take place if we called down all the angels from heaven, or take our swords and defeat everybody? It would defeat the Lord's will in the particular situation. The Scriptures being fulfilled is reference to Isaiah chapter 52 verse 13 through chapter 53 verse 12. That whole section in Isaiah is a reference to the crucifixion of the Messiah. How will those Scriptures be fulfilled if there is deliverance? There is not. It cannot happen. So, the Lord's will has to be done.

On at least three other occasions He told the disciples that it was necessary that He suffer, die, and be raised from the dead. He kept telling them this was the Father's will. And we will see in a moment it finally sunk in. What the Father's will was, it was not what they thought it was. He said in John chapter 18 verse 11, **"The cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?"**

Verse 55, **In that hour, Jesus said to the crowds, "Just as against a robber did you come out with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat with you according to the daytime teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me?"** So Jesus was saying, "You had plenty of opportunity to take me. You come out here like I am some kind of a criminal. You have your clubs, and you have your swords, and you have all these soldiers, but I was in plain sight every day in the Temple teaching and you never took up time to seize Me then, why are you seizing Me now?"

Verse 56, **But this whole thing has happened in order that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples having left Him, fled.** Just as Jesus predicted earlier that evening, in Matthew chapter 26 verse 31, **When the Shepherd was struck the sheep will scatter.** That is a fact. He was not condemning them. He was quoting from Zechariah chapter 13 verse 7 that as soon as the Shepherd is struck, the sheep would scatter.

Now the whole thing to really understand and take in in this, the Lord prayed in the garden, **"Not My will but thine be done."** And, **"The cup that the Father has given me, shall I not drink it?"** But it is interesting, how can the Scriptures be fulfilled? This is a question for us, how can the Scriptures be fulfilled if we are constantly being delivered from everything? All of the hardship, all of the Scriptures, all of the prophecies about the end times are fulfilled on the basis of the Lord's will being done. We can pray for the hardships. We can pray for the difficulties. But the thing to remember is that without them we are not drawn closer to the Lord.

In these last days there will not be revival. Everybody prays for revival. There will not be revival the Bible says. The Bible says that there will be judgment, and hardship, and the end

times are here. The difficult times for people are approaching. The only solution to the situation is Jesus Christ. He is the only one who internally can keep a person at peace, and in strength through it all. Just like Jesus Himself as He prayed through it all in the garden and worked through it all with the people. It is through Christ, and Christ alone.

Let's close with prayer.