

68. Jesus Was Betrayed by Judas

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children understand that the love that Jesus has for us caused Him to pray for us at the very time that He was just hours from His crucifixion. In this topic, we are going to see what took place just a short time after Jesus had finished His prayer for His disciples and for all who would later believe, including each Christian today.

Jesus was not afraid to die. That was the very reason that He had come to this earth. However, He needed to spend time praying to the Father before He was arrested. John 18:1-4 says, “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 disciples entered. And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. Then Judas, having received a detachment of *troops*, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, ‘Whom are you seeking?’” In these verses, we see that Jesus went to meet the men who came to arrest Him.

However, we see a very important lesson that is not mentioned in any of the other Gospel. In our last topic, we saw that Jesus prayed for the disciples and for all future followers who have become Christians since that time. Here, we see that the prayer for the disciples happened before Jesus crossed the Brook Kidron to go the Garden to Gethsemane. This means that the disciples had the opportunity to hear this prayer for them and for us before Jesus began His prayer in the Garden. That meant that the disciples heard Jesus tell the Father of the greatness of His love for the disciples and for all future followers. They heard His prayer that we would all be one.

The Brook Kidron was a brook that provided a small valley between the temple just inside the city wall of Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives. Brooks usually only have water in them at the times of seasonal rains. Jesus and the disciples walked across that small valley to the garden on the Mount of Olives on the other side of the brook. We read that Jesus and the disciples often went to this garden when they were in Jerusalem. As a result, Judas knew that this was a place where he could find Jesus as it got later in the evening. Luke 22:3-6 says, “Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude.” Solitude was important to Judas because the Jewish religious leaders wanted Judas to betray Jesus to them when none of the multitude was around.

John 13:26 and 30 says, “Jesus answered, ‘It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.’ And having dipped the bread, He gave *it* to Judas Iscariot, *the son of Simon*...Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.” Here, we see that Judas had gone to the chief priests to get men to arrest Jesus. This group included a detachment of Roman soldiers (usually three hundred to six hundred men) and a group of the temple officers sent along with Judas by the chief priests and Pharisees. This large group of men

now came across the Brook Kidron with lanterns, torches and weapons. The fact that the religious leaders had asked the Roman commander for such a large group of Roman soldiers showed that the chief priests expected major resistance.

In contrast, we see that Jesus offered no resistance. Instead, Jesus went to meet the soldiers and men who had come to arrest Him. Jesus then asked those men the question, “Whom are you seeking?” John 18:5-9 says, “They answered Him, ‘Jesus of Nazareth.’ Jesus said to them, ‘I am *He*’. And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. Now when He said to them, ‘I am *He*’, they drew back and fell to the ground. Then He asked them again, ‘Whom are you seeking?’ And they said, ‘Jesus of Nazareth.’ Jesus answered, ‘I have told you that I am *He*. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,’ that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, ‘Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none.’” Here, we see that Jesus told the soldiers and the men sent by the religious leaders that He was Jesus of Nazareth. There was no attempt to fight by Jesus.

In Mark 14:42-43, we read, “‘Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.’ And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.” Jesus came to meet Judas and those who came with him because Jesus was obedient to the Father and was carrying out the plan of the Father. That was why Jesus willingly came to meet this large group of men that had come with Judas. Jesus had come to the earth for the purpose of paying the penalty for sin. As a result, Jesus did not hesitate but told the men that He was Jesus of Nazareth.

We also read that Judas was standing with the group of men who had come to arrest Jesus. Judas had come with these men to show them exactly what one was Jesus so that they would not grab the wrong person in the darkness. However, we see that Judas also identified himself as one of the enemies of Jesus by the fact that he stood with those who had come to arrest Jesus. Jeremiah 17:9 says, “‘The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked; who can know it?’” Here, we see that Judas was showing the true condition of his heart, even though he had pretended to be a true disciple of Jesus.

The soldiers and others who came to arrest Jesus were so surprised by the fact that Jesus came to meet them and said that He was “Jesus of Nazareth” that they drew back and fell to the ground. These men had expected a fight and had brought a large number of Roman troops to help them capture Jesus. Instead, Jesus showed that He was the One who had the real authority. After His resurrection, Jesus said in Matthew 28:18, “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’” Jesus told Pilate a few hours later in John 19:11, “Jesus answered, ‘You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.’” Here, we see that the authority of Jesus caused all of these men to fall to the ground.

Jesus then exercised His authority by telling the men that if they came for Him they should allow the disciples to leave because they were not seeking the disciples. Jesus did this to fulfill the words that He had spoken in John 6:39, “‘This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.’” However, we see that Peter

did not understand why Jesus said what He did. John 18:10-11 says, “Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus. So Jesus said to Peter, ‘Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?’” Jesus had already spoken the words that would protect the disciples but Peter did not understand and was ready to fight to defend Jesus.

Peter did not ask Jesus what he should do. He just pulled out the sword that he had and began swinging. Malchus must have seen the sword coming toward him and tried to avoid it because Peter only cut off his ear. Peter was probably planning to remove his head. Jesus had just spoken the words needed to protect Peter and the other disciples. Now, Peter had attempted to kill the servant of the high priest. Luke 22:50-51 says, “And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus answered and said, ‘Permit even this.’ And He touched his ear and healed him.” Now, Peter was guilty of a crime that could get him killed. Again, Jesus became involved to protect Peter from his own actions.

Jesus picked up the ear that Peter had cut off and healed the ear. This meant that there was no evidence to convict Peter because Jesus had just destroyed the evidence by restoring the ear to its original condition. Jesus told Peter to put his sword away. Then, Jesus turned and began to speak to the high priest and those with him. As Jesus was speaking to these men, the disciples realized what was going to happen and fled. Mark 14:48-50 says, “Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.’ Then they all forsook Him and fled.” Here, we see that while Jesus was talking to the religious leaders and the soldiers the disciples left Jesus and fled for their lives.

However, before Peter left, Jesus said to him, “Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?” Several places in the Old Testament, God used a cup to picture His judgment against sin. Jesus was going to take God’s judgment for our sins just a few hours later on the cross. Isaiah 53:10-11 says, “Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put *Him* to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see *His* seed, He shall prolong *His* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, *and* be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.” Jesus let Peter know that He was ready to bear the cup of judgment for the sins of the whole world.

We want to help our physical and spiritual children understand that Jesus willingly chose to take the wrath of God against sin by bearing our sin on the cross. Jesus willingly did this even though He knew that it would mean being forsaken by the Father as He bore our sins. Jesus was willing to bear that cup for each one of us. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children understand that Jesus bore that cup for them.