

The Gospel According to Luke

Luke 22:39-53

Reading: John 18:1-11

Parallel Passages: Matthew 26:47-56, Mark 14:43-50 and John 18:1-11

Sermon #97
October 18, 2020

The Hour Has Come

Prayer (v. 39-46)

Jesus and the disciples have left the upper room and have traveled the short distance to the Mount of Olives. We learn the importance of prayer as Jesus prayed in advance in order to remain perfectly in His Father's will. Reading at verse 39, Jesus "came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ And when he came to the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not enter into temptation.' ⁴¹ And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.' ⁴³ And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. ⁴⁵ And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, 'Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.'" His great need was to be completely in God's will and in full agreement with it and to be prepared and strengthened for what was soon coming.

While Jesus prayed in sorrow even to the point of death, the disciples slept in their sorrow. Twice they were entreated by the Lord to pray so that they would not fall into temptation. He prayed and they slept and we will discover the difference what Jesus' prayer made.

In our passage today and from here on until we finish the Gospel According to Luke, we are going to bring in a lot more from the other Gospels so that we get a fuller account of the events leading to and surrounding our Lord's crucifixion. Your bulletin lists the parallel passages from the other Gospels. It would be well worth your time to read all 4 accounts this afternoon.

Key Point - Jesus Christ submitted to the will of the Father and at the same time He was in total control for He is both fully God and fully man.

One great need we have is to understand and trust that our Lord is always in complete control of every situation. Do you believe this morning that God is in complete control of everything? Do you believe that everything that is happening is moving towards God's plan for mankind's redemption being fulfilled?

So often when we are pressed by our circumstances, if our focus is not on Christ, we react in fear and unbelief. We worry or get anxious because way down deep, we think that our future depends on us. Way down deep we think we are in charge and that if things are going to get better, we say to ourselves, "I'm going to need to act." George Muller, evangelist and missionary said, "The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety." So, the best way to handle trials and struggles is to pray, study the scriptures and remember God is sovereign and in control and we are not. I am not saying do not be proactive, but pray that you are obedient to act in the will of God.

The text this morning is rich with theological truth. What I would like us to understand today from this passage is the power and control God has even in this dark trial. Jesus is fully aware of everything about to happen and He is fully in charge. Jesus allows the mob to arrest Him because it fulfills God's plan for mankind's redemption. Many times, prior to this night, we have read that they tried

to arrest Jesus but always failed because God did not allow it and it was not the time chosen by the Father.

My prayer for us today is we learn that when we run into events that cause us to move toward anxiety, we will remember this passage. No one takes Jesus' life but He lays it down freely for His people. Now, please stand and **hear God's Word for Canyon Bible Church today as brother Ivan reads John chapter 18, verses 1 to 11.**

Let me begin our time in God's Word in prayer.

Betrayal (v. 47-48)

Jesus had an intense time in prayer, so intense, God the Father sent an angel to comfort and strengthen Him. Now, Jesus is ready, He was ready to face what was already headed His way. Down the path, not far away Judas was leading a mob. Once the mob arrived there was no time to pray. The Lord had already prayed and was ready to face this challenging and brutal night. Our lesson here is to be proactive in prayer if we desire to be in God's will and when life happens, we will be ready; strengthened and prepared by prayer, even if we are betrayed.

No betrayal is worse than by someone you love or a friend. William Tyndale, first translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into English, making a Bible for the common people. In 1535 he was betrayed by a friend for money, he was taken prisoner but continued to work on his translation. He was unable to finish his work because he was sentenced to die a heretic's death by strangulation and burning at the stake. On October 6, 1536 he gave his last words of faith in God.

Luke tells us that the man who was leading the mob was Judas. Judas is known as one of the disciples. This was no stranger who was about to betray our

Lord but one who had been with them, one of the twelve. Judas was about to do the most repugnant act that human depravity could do - betray the Son of God. He had already overridden his conscience and this allowed Satan to enter him, and his conscience is now devoid of truth. He desired payment for his three wasted years. He wanted compensation for following Jesus. His hopes of Jesus taking the throne as King and ruling over everyone had been dashed. Judas was trying to get whatever he could and for thirty pieces of silver he sold his soul to Satan. Remember, Judas was a hypocrite and a traitor before Satan ever entered him, the devil used his selfish ambitions and these ambitions allowed the devil's influence to the point of control. Satan gives Judas a feeling of confidence at that moment. This would soon change when Satan departed Judas and the realization of his actions burns into his mind, soul and heart.

The Gospel of John, chapter 18 tells us, ³ “**So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons.**” The Greek word for “band of soldiers” is *speira* (**spi·rah**). This word describes a military cohort — a group of approximately 600 soldiers.

John explains that it was Judas who not only was betraying Him, but he was the one who organized the expedition to arrest Jesus. This was no small task, Judas arranged for a Roman cohort of around 600 men plus men from the Pharisees, the Elders, and others and this would have taken some doing. Some scholars estimate the number could have been as high as 1000 people. As soon as the mob arrived with Judas in front, Jesus already knew what was going to happen. We know this for verse 4 of John chapter 18 we read, “**Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, ‘Whom do you seek?’**”

Jesus not only knew what was going to happen but He knew exactly how it would happen. His question to Judas is not simply asking him how he was to betray Him but was wanting Judas and the others to see the utter absurdity of how Judas was going to do this evil act. He would identify Jesus to the others with a kiss. Rather than pointing and saying, “There He is”, he would walk up to Jesus, look Him in the eye and embrace Him and kiss Him on the cheek. Judas would wrap his arms around Jesus. The irony was, a kiss was appropriate to show respect to a rabbi or a teacher. So, Judas, the hypocrite that he was, says “*Rabbi!*” and kisses Jesus.

Just a side note here, it was not Jesus who was on trial. When Jesus said, “**Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?**” this was Judas’ one last opportunity to repent. One last chance to see just how far the sin of the love of money had taken him. It was really Judas who was on trial. Even though there were 600 soldiers and many other men there armed for battle Jesus was calm, cool, and collected. He offered Judas an opportunity to repent. Judas rejected this opportunity. So, it was Jesus interrogating the leader of the mob and who was in control.

There are also other details that John adds to Luke’s account. I think it is these details that fires Peter up to fight. Reading again from John chapter 18, ⁴“Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, ‘**Whom do you seek?**’ ⁵They answered him, ‘Jesus of Nazareth.’ Jesus said to them, ‘**I am he.**’ Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, ‘**I am he,**’ they drew back and fell to the ground.” Jesus is not afraid of this multitude that is coming at Him with weapons and torches. They are afraid of Him. With 3 words, the multitude, including Judas, fell to the ground, when Jesus said “**I am he**”. These are similar words Jesus spoke to Moses at the burning

bush, “**I Am**”. Hearing these words Moses is told to remove his sandals because he was now on holy ground. Moses fell forward and worshipped the glory of God. But here on this dark night, these enemies of God fell back in fear, not worship. They were driven to the ground by the sheer power of God’s Words. Jesus never struck them but simply spoke and their feet fell out from under them.

Jesus by His mere word drove them to the ground to show that He was more than Jesus of Nazareth and that He was in charge not them and that He is the Christ. They could only arrest Jesus if He permitted them to do so. Jesus was not passive in these events He was active. Jesus was a willing to be God’s Sacrifice for sins of mankind. He would offer Himself as a willing sacrifice. No one would take Jesus’ life from Him – Jesus gave His life. This multitude was at the mercy of Jesus.

I pray this morning that your confidence in Christ increases as you see just how powerful the Words of Christ are “**I am**” in the Greek - *ego emie*. God told Moses this same thing, “God said to Moses, ‘**I AM WHO I AM.**’ And he said, ‘Say this to the people of Israel: “**I AM has sent me to you.**”” (Exodus 3:14) Jesus revealed to John as we read in Revelation, ¹⁷“When I saw him (*Jesus*), I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “**Fear not, I am the first and the last,** ¹⁸**and the living one.**” (Revelation 1:17-18) Jesus had said to the people, “**I am the Son of God.**” (Matthew 27:43) This is the Son of God, who commands legions of angels that would have kept mere men from harming Him. (Mt. 36:53) Jesus is the “**I Am**” who created trillions of galaxies and tells us, “**Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.**” (Matthew 24:29) This will happen by the word of Jesus. This Jesus is the One, He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. No one is

able to come against Jesus without both God the Father and Jesus, God the Son allowing it. What Jesus allows evil men to act upon that dark night set into motion the events that the very next morning He would deliver us from the world.

Arrest (v. 49-53)

Jesus is falsely accused by Judas and is considered guilty even before His illegal trial. Reminds me of another case with similar circumstances. In November 1805, the body of a young farmer, Marcus Lyon, was found on the open road near Wilbraham, Massachusetts. Irish immigrants Dominic Daley and James Halligan were traveling in the area. They were arrested for the murder and their accuser received a reward of \$500, just as Judas was paid. They were jailed and were given an attorney 48 hours before their trial. Once the trial began, they were convicted within minutes. The defense attorney said, “The evidence was so flimsy it was obvious their conviction was based on bigotry.” They were executed the next day on St. Patrick’s Day. In 1984, a 179 years later Governor Dukakis issued a proclamation exonerating these men. Let me ask, do you proclaim Jesus as the Lamb of God who died at the hands of evil men for your salvation or do you remain silent? Time is passing, do not let it go by in silence.

Returning to our passage for this morning, it had not been more than an hour or two since Jesus had told His disciples that from this point forward, they would need to make provisions for themselves and to be prudent. Jesus had told them to take a moneybag, an extra pair of sandals and to buy a sword. Now we read, beginning in verse 49, “**And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?”** ⁵⁰ **And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.** ⁵¹ **But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him.**” Jesus’ earlier words had

been misunderstood. Jesus never advocated the Kingdom of God would come to be by violence. He had taught His disciples that they would need to be prepared and wise and even protect themselves. Their offensive weapon for battle was to be, “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance.” (Ephesians 6:17-18) However, Peter, whose has a reputation of acting rashly, draws his sword, probably 1 of the 2 mentioned in the upper room. Peter thinks he can protect Jesus against 600 armed Roman soldiers – Peter is prepared but not wise. This is especially true when Jesus by his mere words had sent 1000 men to the ground and Peter somehow thinks his 1 sword is a better defense. Peter’s quick action was most likely meant to lop off the man’s head and he succeeds in only taking of an ear. In John’s account we read,¹⁰ “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.)¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?” (John 18:10-11) God the Father had predetermined Jesus should drink the cup of crucifixion. On the other hand, Peter struggled with fishing until Jesus filled his boat to overflowing and now, he struggled with using a sword effectively demonstrating he certainly was not a soldier. Jesus keeps the soldiers from advancing on Peter and looks at Peter and commands, “No more of this!”. The soldiers are frozen in their tracks, Jesus’s eyes held Peter frozen in his tracks and His eyes are saying to Peter, “What were you thinking!”, and at the same time Jesus touches where the man’s ear had been and heals it. The passage does not say Jesus stooped and picked up the severed ear off the ground and put it back – it says he touched the man and healed him. The severed ear may have still been laying there on the ground. So, who was in charge? Not Judas, not the soldiers, not the priests, not Peter – Jesus had total control and it was He that was in charge.

It is interesting that Jesus heals without any faith on the part of the servant. Jesus out of thin air touches the servant and he has a new ear. If someone says there can be no healing without faith or if someone is not healed because they lack faith, by Jesus' action we know that is not true. The Gospel is a message of healing and of loving your enemies. Jesus' response is very typical of His message. He would later tell His accusers that His Kingdom is not of this world, if it had been of this world, His followers would fight and because Jesus is God they would have won.

At this point in time the disciples still do not fully understand His teaching, but they would grow in understanding that war is not the way the Gospel advances. In fact, it is the opposite. Enemies are reconciled by the message of the cross. We will see this truth, but during this dark night for a short time evil is allowed to rule.

Darkness (v. 52-53)

Reading the last 2 verses of our study, ⁵²“Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? ⁵³When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.”

I want us to discern something together that is further proof that Jesus is in control and that everyone involved is working on God's time schedule. Luke and John say that these men had come out against Jesus with weapons and plenty of manpower. They also record that Jesus was with these religious leaders day after day in and around the Temple and they did nothing. In other words, if Jesus would have been a lawbreaker and guilty of some crime, they could have arrested Him at

any time but they did not. This shows that their claims are unfounded. These religious leaders are saying that Jesus is guilty of insurrection. If this were the case why did they not arrest Him on any of the occasions when He was walking through the city unarmed.

It takes a cohort of 600 Roman soldiers, the chief priest, servants, elders, and the Pharisees to make an arrest that they could have made at any time with a few people. Jesus had not given indication He would resist. Something divine is happening. Something supernatural is in the making. This arrest is unjustified and a sham from a human standpoint. However, Jesus explains why it is happening at this present time and not before, he says in verse 53, “**this is your hour, and the power of darkness.**”

It is interesting Jesus uses the phrase “**this is your hour**” which indicates a brief time period – their success will be short-lived. This is the moment Jesus has been waiting for. For a very short few hours evil will be permitted to have success. The plan of God was coming to pass exactly as He had planned. The evil schemes of man were in actuality carrying out the plan of God. Jesus desires to be arrested. Because Jesus is in control even of His own death - proves that He gave His life for our salvation. No one took it. Evil did not overpower Jesus. He was in control of every event. All He had to do was speak a word and it would have stopped.

I pray we see the love Christ has for His people. Jesus possessed the power and authority to accomplish His Father’s will for God’s glory and for our good. His death was the way God would receive the most glory and we would receive the most benefit.

Something else we should notice, God also regulated evil. It only lasted as long as God permitted it to last, but that was all, as Jesus said, “**this is your hour**”.

Always remember that evil will only have short success when it accomplishes God's plan. God regulates and limits it. To bring it into focus for our time C. S. Lewis wrote, "I live in the Managerial Age, in a world of "Admin." The greatest evil is not now done in those sordid "dens of crime" that Dickens loved to paint. It is not done even in concentration camps and labour camps. In those we see its final result. But it is conceived and ordered ... in clean, carpeted, warmed and well-lighted offices, by quiet men with white collars and cut fingernails and smooth-shaven cheeks who do not need to raise their voices. Hence, naturally enough, my symbol for Hell is something like the bureaucracy of a police state or the office of a thoroughly nasty business concern." My beloved, when we enter into trials for our society, like this election or personal trials they will only last as long as God decrees them to last. He is in charge. So, we do not need to fear the future. It is in God's hands. He is good and He loves us. Remember, Jesus endured the hour of evil's success so that we experience the benefits of salvation. Never lose sight of the fact that Jesus is King and He alone controls the universe.

Are you thankful this morning that we serve the King of the universe, the Great I AM? I am so very thankful. I praise God the Father for sending God the Son for our salvation – Jesus is God and my Savior, my Lord, my everything – I hope Jesus is all of these for you as well. And, all God's children said, Amen!