

## **Betrayal and Trial of Jesus**

Luke 22:47-23:25

### Notes

No one can please everyone, you can't, I can't, and neither could Jesus.

There will be situations in your life where you are going to be the bad guy. Now you may legitimately be the bad guy, or you may be the good guy painted to look like the bad guy. I have been both.

Jesus keeps an eternal perspective, a wide view of the situation even in the midst of personal turmoil.

In this text we see how different groups and people respond to Jesus.

How do you respond to Jesus? When he commands you to love the unlovable? To forgive the unforgiveable? To serve when you are tired? To continue on when you feel like giving in? When you are disciplined?

How does the gospel, the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus cause you to live? With hope? Perspective? Purpose?

We must remember that Christ and Christ alone is the reason we exist. It was and is through Christ's death on the cross which satisfied God's punishment for sin that we can sit in this church today and claim freedom from sin, death, and hell.

Paul proclaimed in 1 Cor. 15 that "sin has been swallowed up in death." Our sin was swallowed up in the death of Christ. And through His death we also died to sin and to the punishment of sin. Through His life we also have life everlasting and are sealed with the person of the Holy Spirit.

The gospel is not, should not, be an event we reference in our life as a past action that only has future implications.

The gospel presented us with a past opportunity to have our sins removed. It serves as a continual force for our sanctification and equipping as a disciple and provides us with a secure hope that we will be resurrected with Christ on that last day.

The gospel should change how we respond to this world.

As we look at how Jesus interacted with certain individuals and groups, I want us to consider how we would respond to such situations.

Jesus stood face to face with his enemies on our behalf.

How will we handle the enemies of Christ (sin, complacency, unbelief) when we meet them face to face?

Does the fact that Jesus is your Lord affect how you live your life, how you respond to pain, suffering, injury, hurt, wrong, and sin?

Does the gospel drive your direction, purpose, plan, and values?

Our lives should be changed by the gospel. Our lives should be different because of what Christ has done.

### I. JESUS FACES JUDAS (Lk. 22:47-48)

As we encounter Jesus and his disciples they are in the Garden of Gethsemane. Earlier in the night they shared in the fellowship of the Lord's Supper, the disciples dispute position in the coming kingdom, Jesus predicts Peter's denial, Jesus even warns of the events to come.

They leave the Upper Room. As they are headed to the Mount of Olives they have to pass down the back side of the Temple Mount across the Kidron Valley. During this time of the year at Passover the temple would have been sacrificing around 250,000 animals. As the priests cleaned off this blood from the temple and altar it was washed through the drain built out of the back of the temple. This drain led down to the Kidron Valley. At this time this valley would have had a stream of blood running through it. Jesus and disciples would have had to cross this valley as they went up to the Mount of Olives. This is a wonderful picture for us to see just what Jesus was about to accomplish on our behalf.

Now Jesus has finished praying his famous prayer where he places the Father's will ahead of his own physical comfort, as He sweats drops of blood from His brow from knowing the agony He is soon to endure. As he is coming down from praying, he meets the disciples sleeping and he wakes them and instructs them to pray. And it is at this point that we pick up the story.

*<sup>47</sup>While He was still speaking, behold, a crowd came; and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was preceding them; and he approached Jesus to kiss Him. <sup>48</sup>But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"*

Judas, one of the twelve, handpicked by Jesus himself, taught by the Master Teacher, taught how to pray, shown miracles, given the opportunity to walk side-by-side as Jesus was ministering to the people of Palestine, this Judas betrays Jesus.

Can you believe it? How could this happen? How could his heart have grown so cold? But this is no surprise to Jesus.

He has known from eternity past that this must come to pass in order to fulfill the requirements for the salvation of men's souls. Jesus has even predicted it several times to the disciples.

But to see this come to pass, to read these words are shocking; our hearts skip a beat. How could a disciple, a follower of Christ betray him?

It was a common practice for a disciple of a Rabbi or a teacher to approach his mentor and place a hand upon each shoulder and kiss the cheek of his beloved teacher.

That is why this is such a hypocritical thing; Judas was identifying who Jesus was to the temple guard so that he could be led away and murdered, with a sign of deepest affection.

And Jesus calls him out on it.

*<sup>48</sup>But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"*

Jesus puts him to the fire. He point blank asks Judas the question. Jesus has long known that it would be Judas who would betray him, and now Judas is being held accountable by Jesus himself.

We need to take note of scary truth. Up until that moment Judas would have considered himself a follower of Christ; so would every other disciple. Many times there will be people in our midst, in the church, sharing in the fellowship of Christ who pretend to be followers, who show many signs of truth, but their hearts are far from Christ.

Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, the going rate for a slave. He sold the Savior of the World for the price of a slave. I am sure that he could have gotten much more than that.

There have been many people throughout history who have sold Jesus for temporary pleasures. He has been sold for fame, fortune, businesses, comfort, and countries.

Let's make it more personal. What have we sold Jesus for?

Have you sold Jesus for a cheap thrill, a quick pleasure, better friends, a great job, the love of your life? What price is Jesus worth to you?

All Jesus was worth to Judas was the price of a slave? What is Jesus worth to you? How will you react when tempted with the pleasures of the flesh and the thrills of the world?

A disciple cannot follow Christ and the world.

Following Jesus automatically forfeits the pleasures of the world for the treasures of abundant life.

## **II. JESUS FACES THE TEMPLE GUARD (Lk. 22:54; 63-65)**

Being a Christian means that we suffer, it means that we will most definitely face persecution. Just as our Lord faced persecution, so we should expect to.

*<sup>54</sup>Having arrested Him, they led Him away and brought Him to the house of the high priest;*

The crowd that was with Judas was partly made up of the temple guard. The temple guard did just that; they guarded the temple in Jerusalem and kept order.

They arrest Jesus and bring him to the house of the high priest, Caiaphas. We know from the other Gospel accounts that the Sanhedrin were there. The Sanhedrin was the ruling class of Jewish leaders made up of priests, scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees.

This was an extremely illegal move on the part of the Sanhedrin. Jewish law only permitted court to take place during the day.

Jesus is brought there only to be prematurely interrogated by them so that in the morning he could have an open trial to publicly declare him guilty.

*After having been arrested we read, <sup>63</sup>Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking Him and beating Him, <sup>64</sup>and they blindfolded Him and were asking Him, saying, "Prophecy who is the one who hit You?" <sup>65</sup>And they were saying many other things against Him, blaspheming.*

Our Jesus, our Savior, but not only our Savior, the Savior of the world was humiliated by the guards and the leaders. They savagely beat and mocked him.

The Jews despised Rome because of their treatment of its slaves and how cruel they were in their punishment; but now they have resorted to bigotry, doing the exact thing that they condemn.

The Messiah they were waiting on for centuries has finally arrived and instead of falling face down at his feet, they mock him.

Look at what Jesus voluntarily went through. Whereas Peter, the one who said he would never leave Jesus, just moments earlier denied knowing Christ not once, but three times in order to avoid any type of punishment.

Jesus suffered; Peter denied any connection with the King.

Peter watched in horror and in denial as his Lord was beaten and lied about.

The question must be asked: How will you react when your relationship with Jesus is questioned?

Will you hide in the shadows trying to blend into the surroundings of the world so as not to be noticed as a friend of Jesus?

Will you be the one to stand up for Christ at school when it is not the popular thing to do?

Will you exemplify Christ at work even when the pressure is on to complete the task?

Will you be willing to be ousted as a follower of Christ when you say no to a sinful lifestyle?

We should be willing to stand with Christ regardless of the consequences.

#### **IV. JESUS FACES THE COURT (Lk. 22:66-71)**

*<sup>66</sup>When it was day, the Council of elders of the people assembled, both chief priests and scribes, and they led Him away to their council chamber, saying, <sup>67</sup>“If You are the Christ, tell us.” But He said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe; <sup>68</sup>and if I ask a question, you will not answer. <sup>69</sup>But from now on THE SON OF MAN WILL BE SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND of the power of God.” <sup>70</sup>And they all said, “Are You the Son of God, then?” And He said to them, “Yes, I am.” <sup>71</sup>Then they said, “What further need do we have of testimony? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth.”*

The court sat in a semi-circle so that every member could see one another. The prisoner would stand facing the court. Jesus would be a horrible sight; beaten and mistreated all night, probably starved and without water.

Behind him there would be sitting rows of students and disciples of the Rabbis. The students could speak in defense of the prisoner if they so choose.

All charges must be supported by two witnesses. A member of the court could speak against a prisoner and then for a prisoner, but not visa-versa.

For a guilty verdict there had to be a majority of two, for an acquittal only a majority of one. A death sentence could never be carried out the day it was given.

The whole procedure was designed to show mercy to the prisoner, but we see anything but that for our Savior.

The Sanhedrin produced a charge of blasphemy for a guilty verdict for Jesus.

I love that even though Jesus stood in the courtroom of mockers, during a kangaroo court, he still had **the confidence** in His Father that He would be sitting at His right hand.

Even though you may be facing an uphill battle, even though life may be tough, your relationships may not be the way you want them, your finances are not as your desire, your life may not be where you think it should; know that in Christ that you can have confidence that your sins have been forgiven, that you are sealed with the Holy Spirit, and that heaven is your home.

Bad days will come; Christ promised that to those who follow him. To be a follower of Christ, to be a disciple of the King does not mean that life will be easy, it does not mean that the road will not be long.

To be a follower of Jesus will cost you, Jesus proclaimed that we should be ready to give up our very lives.

Do not allow the possibility of humiliation, gossip, loss of friends, relationships, jobs, or opportunities keep you from engaging the world for Christ!

Your persecution will be to His glory and a testimony to His power in you.

### **III. JESUS FACES PILATE AND HEROD (Lk. 23:1-5; 6-12)**

Over the course of the next 12 verses Jesus is going to face Pilate, who is the ruler over Palestine and Herod who is the ruler over Galilee, Jesus' home country.

The Sanhedrin brings Jesus before Pilate and they bring 3 trumped up charges on him.

*Then the whole body of them got up and brought Him before Pilate. <sup>2</sup> And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, and saying that He Himself is Christ, a King." <sup>3</sup> So Pilate asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" And He answered him and said, "It is as you say." <sup>4</sup> Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no guilt in this man." <sup>5</sup> But they kept on insisting, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching all over Judea, starting from Galilee even as far as this place." (Lk. 23:1-5)*

It is interesting to note that they charged him with blasphemy and sentenced him to death, and they took him to a Roman ruler to execute him, because the Jews could not execute anyone. The Jewish leaders despised Rome and thought that their method of execution was inhuman and disgusting, but that did not stop them this day.

Let's take a quick moment to look at the charges against Jesus.

1. (v. 2)“*misleading our nation*”- this is basically saying that Jesus was leading a revolt against Rome, which the Jews wanted, but is obviously untrue of Jesus.
2. (v.2)“*forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar*”- this is a blatant lie because Jesus himself said that Caesar had the right to collect taxes.
3. (v. 2)“*saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.*”- The Jews did not recognize him as a King, yet they brought Jesus forth as such to Pilate.

Pilate knows Jesus is not guilty of these and instead of stepping up to the plate and putting the Jewish leaders in their place, he succumbs to their pressure.

But to try to get himself out of the fire for killing an innocent man, he sends Jesus (verses 6-7) to see Herod who is King over Galilee, where Jesus lives. He wanted Herod to do the dirty deed so his own conscience would be clean.

James 4:17 instructs us, “*Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.*”

Both Herod and Pilate were in the capital city to celebrate the Passover, or more or less watch over the Jewish people to ensure that they did not revolt.

Let’s look at how Herod responded to Jesus.

*Now Herod was very glad when he saw Jesus; for he had wanted to see Him for a long time, because he had been hearing about Him and was hoping to see some sign performed by Him. <sup>9</sup> And he questioned Him at some length; but He answered him nothing. <sup>10</sup> And the chief priests and the scribes were standing there, accusing Him vehemently. <sup>11</sup> And Herod with his soldiers, after treating Him with contempt and mocking Him, dressed Him in a gorgeous robe and sent Him back to Pilate. (Lk. 23:8-11)*

Where Pilate knew Jesus was innocent and tried to cowardly show him mercy, Herod was a blasphemer and simply wanted to see Jesus perform miracles for his own enjoyment.

After Jesus refused to answer any of Herod’s blasphemous questions, he and his guards mocked our Savior and even put a fine robe on him and paraded him around to be made fun of. Then Herod, also not finding any reason to kill Jesus, because he viewed him as a joke, sent him back to Pilate.

The lessons from each of these two men are this:

1). Do not allow people to pressure you into doing what is wrong just to fit in or just to avoid consequences. Other’s opinions should not affect your faithfulness to Christ.

2). Do not approach Jesus just to see what amazing things he can do, because if you do you only make a mockery of him.

With those in mind we must ask:

Do you allow others opinion of you to keep you from living out the Word of God in your life? Do you allow others views to carry more weight in your life than God’s will and word?

Do you come to Jesus simply to see him do signs and wonders? If so you are missing the greatest thing.

Beloved, I pray that you would approach Jesus with your whole heart. He does not just want a piece of you, he desires all of you.

Jesus does not just want you to follow him when things are easy, he wants you to make the hard choices for him, no matter the crowd.

He wants you to follow him because you love him, not so that he can just perform for you.

#### **IV. JESUS FACES THE CROWD (Lk. 23:13-25)**

Imagine our Savior. He has been drug out of his place of prayer, taken to a kangaroo court, beaten, mocked, falsely accused before two rulers and now he will be taken back to Pilate for his final appearance and judgment before his human conspirators.

With this passage I want to again show you the power of pressure and how important it is for us to rely on what is right and not on what the crowd says is correct.

Three separate times in verses 14-15, 20, and 22 Pilate acknowledged that Jesus had done nothing deserving of death.

*And he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has this man done? I have found in Him no guilt demanding death; therefore I will punish Him and release Him." <sup>23</sup> But they were insistent, with loud voices asking that He be crucified. And their voices began to prevail. <sup>24</sup> And Pilate pronounced sentence that their demand be granted. <sup>25</sup> And he released the man they were asking for who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, but he delivered Jesus to their will. (Lk. 23:22-25)*

But the crowd, the crowd that once followed Jesus, the crowd that once were healed, restored, renewed, and some even raised from the dead, the crowd that was fed by a few fish and some loaves-this crowd has now turned on their Savior and at the tempting of the Sanhedrin is demanding Jesus' death.

The man who had never sinned, not even once, the man who promoted peace, love, and justice is being pushed to undergo death.

Instead of releasing Jesus, the crowd insisted that Barabbas be released. Barabbas who actually was guilty of planning a revolt, Barabbas who actually was guilty of murder was the one to be set free.

Oh, how fickle is the human heart. One minute we can love something or someone so fiercely and the next we throw them away never to think of them again.

What had Jesus done that the crowds, the ones who once declared him Messiah would turn on him?

The crowds wanted exactly that; they wanted a Messiah that would overthrow Rome and restore Israel to its former glory.

They thought Jesus' miracle working, his feeding the hungry, giving sight to the blind, raising the dead, was just the beginning of his work to overtake Rome.

But once he started talking about loving your enemies, doing good to those who hurt you, loving him more than your mother and father, bearing a cross; once he started speaking these things of total surrender and sacrifice they quickly realized that this was not the Messiah they wanted.

The crowd turned on Jesus when they realized he would not give them everything they wanted. They wanted a Messiah of the bread, a Messiah that would give constant supply and would not require anything.

Many times what we want and what we need are at odds with one another. Jesus desires to grow us in godliness and many times this is in direct conflict with our personal comfort.

But this is not what Jesus would offer. Jesus requires everything. He requires total surrender, complete sacrifice, devotion, and commitment.

Please know that Jesus will forgive all your sins, that he will give you eternal life in heaven, that you will be filled with the Holy Spirit, you will know peace like no other, you will have a joy that surpasses anything you have ever known.

But Jesus does not want to be second place in your life. He is not in the race to win first place for your affections. He wants to be the only person on the track. He wants to be your all. He wants to affect every area of your life, not just fit in when you get a chance to fit him in.

Beloved, do not be the person in the crowd who calls themselves a follower, but who is really a fan. Be a devoted follower of Christ.

The question is: Will you be the person in the crowd who is only with Jesus for what he can give, or will you be the person who gives everything for Christ?

When Jesus doesn't meet your expectations how will you treat him?