

Lesson 11 – 9 January 2011.

The Arrest and Trial of the King

Lesson Scope: Matthew 26:47-27:26

Lesson Focus

Jesus' communion with His heavenly Father in the garden was refreshing and strengthening to His mind and soul. He then proceeded to face the next event on the way to the cross. The shouts of "Hosanna: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord" faded into shouts of "Away with him, away with him, crucify him." The hour for which Jesus had desired to prepare His disciples was now at hand. He voluntarily gave Himself into the hands of sinners.

In this lesson Jesus displayed attitudes that characterize those who are a part of His kingdom. He suffered as a man. He felt the pain of rejection and death. Jesus truly understood the path that needed to be taken in order to provide redemption for all mankind. His goal was to do the will of the Father, and He fulfilled that step by step as He moved toward the cross.

The forces of evil instigated a most abusive cruelty and a most shameful breach of justice. Yet in the midst of these darkest of hours shines the most amazing display of divine character

Jesus' divine character was demonstrated in every area of His life. Both Judas and Pilate gave witness to this divine character in their testimony of His innocence and justice. Judas' involvement of betraying Christ holds valuable lessons for us today. One outstanding lesson is that earthly material pursuits so quickly blind and crowd out spiritual interests. This is detrimental to one's spiritual well-being. Matthew 27:3, 4 implies that Judas was not anticipating Jesus to be condemned. While we observe the involvements of the individuals in this lesson, perhaps the most sobering thought of this lesson is on the question Pilate asks in Matthew 27:22—"What shall I do then with Jesus"? Stress the importance of our personal response to this question. We cannot be neutral.

Lesson Aim: To portray Jesus' divine character in the face of rejection and suffering.

Theme Verse: Isaiah 53:7. “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so lie openeth not his mouth.”

Lesson Text.

Betrayed

Matthew 26:47-56

And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. ⁴⁸Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. ⁴⁹And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him. ⁵⁰And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him. ⁵¹And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. ⁵²Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. ⁵³Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be? ⁵⁵In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me. ⁵⁶But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.

Accused

Matthew 26:59-68

Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; ⁶⁰But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, ⁶¹And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days. ⁶²And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? ⁶³But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. ⁶⁴Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right

hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. ⁶⁵Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. ⁶⁷Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, ⁶⁸Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?

Condemned

Matthew 27:2

And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

Matthew 27:11-14

And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest. ¹²And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. ¹³Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? ¹⁴And he answered him to never a word; inso-much that the governor marvelled greatly.

Questions for Study

Betrayed

1. Why was such a large group of armed men needed to take one so harmless as Jesus?
2. How does Jesus express nonresistance in these verses?
3. Of what value was Jesus' carefulness to fulfill the Scriptures?

Accused

4. Why was it difficult to find false witness among so many false witnesses?
5. What principles should guide our speech and actions when falsely accused?

Condemned

6. Why did Pilate marvel at Jesus' silence in the face of accusation'?
7. What is the significance of Pilate's question in Matthew 27:22?

Analyzing the Passage

The great multitude that came to apprehend Jesus may have numbered several hundred. Judas addressed Jesus as master and kissed him (26:49). This was outright mockery. Jesus in turn called him friend.

Jesus placed a premium on fulfilling the Scriptures. This caused Him to voluntarily sacrifice the protection of more than twelve legions of angels (one legion consisted of six thousand men).

The efforts to fabricate a case against Jesus by false witness were not successful at first, because not even two witnesses agreed (Mark 14:56). Just as Jesus gave Himself into the hands of the Jews, so also they would finally condemn Him to death on the basis of the witness He bore Himself.

When Jesus "held his peace" (Matthew 26:63), the high priest was annoyed and finally adjured Him to talk. To adjure amounted to an oath of law obliging the accused to speak. Spitting, buffeting, and smiting Christ was sport to those assembled. Pilate "marvelled greatly" (Matthew 27:14) at Christ's silence. While Pilate was known to be merciless, cruel, and habitually brutal Jesus' actions had made an impression on him. This caused Pilate to seek Jesus' release.

Principles and Applications

Betrayed

1. Jesus demonstrated divine compassion when betrayed by one of His own. (Matthew 26:47-50). Jesus called Judas friend with all sincerity. Jesus, knowing all things, may have been thinking about the disappointment Judas would face shortly as the realization of his evil act would grip his heart and lead him to a hopeless end. Showing compassion to a close friend who turns his back on you is only possible through divine love.

2. Jesus' life illustrated and taught nonresistance to evil (Matthew 26:51-52). When Peter cut off the high priest's servant's ear, Jesus used the sword as an object lesson, teaching the way of peace and love by not retaliating when treated wrongfully. To turn one's cheek, to give one's cloak, and to go the second mile are Bible principles that we must ever strive to follow.

3. Jesus' divine character is evidenced in His carefulness to fulfill the Scriptures (Matthew 26:53-56). The child of God places a premium on cheerful obedience to all of God's Word. As a spiritual brotherhood carefully makes applications to Bible principles, it is imperative that each member individually] ends support to the same. The bombardment of increased wickedness and advanced technology are encroachments upon the separated way of life. Following the Bible will become more unpopular and following difficult as evil forces intensify.

Accused

4. Jesus' divine character produced a meek and quiet spirit in the face of false accusations (Matthew 26:59-63). Truly Jesus was the Lamb of God. His calm and reserved manners brought diverse responses from the crowd. On one side were feelings of disgust, irritation, and condemnation. On the other side were feelings of amazement, wonder, and respect. Our response to slander, ridicule, and unjust or unfounded accusations will clearly identify who our Master is.

5. Jesus displayed divine character as He unashamedly acknowledge His identity and revealed involvements of His entire mission (Matthew 26:64). The high priest likely received more than he was asking for in Jesus' response to his question. Jesus seized the opportunity to point his audience to a more important occasion to come hereafter. Their next moves were a product of irritation, frustration, and conviction.

6. Jesus' divine character enabled Him to endure mockery, and suffering without retaliation (Matthew 26:65-68). After giving the council something worthwhile to think about, He allowed them to reveal their own identity as they resorted to abuses and indignities of the worst kind. The depravity and degeneracy of the human nature stands in stark contrast to the calm endurance of the divine nature.

Condemned

7. Jesus' simple answer as to His kingship affirmed His divinity (Matthew 27:11). Jesus was not ashamed to own Himself as King, ridiculous as it may have seemed to His accusers. He was a King of a different sort than what Pilate or the crowd could perceive, and this was the moment to proclaim it.

8. Jesus' divine character needed no defense (Matthew 27:12-14). We should always embrace, support, and defend God and His Word. But when it comes to our own life, truth will always stand on its own right. To rise up in defense of one's self is an indication of a disturbed and unsettled heart. Actions speak louder than words. God's children are to be living epistles known and read of all men.

Important Teachings

1. Jesus demonstrated divine compassion when betrayed by one of His own (Matthew 26:47-50).
2. Jesus' life illustrated and taught nonresistance to evil (Matthew 26:51-

52).

3. Jesus' divine character is evidenced in His carefulness to fulfill the Scriptures (Matthew 26:53-56).

4. Jesus' divine character produced a meek and quiet spirit in the face of false accusations (Matthew 26:59-63).

5. Jesus displayed divine character as He unashamedly acknowledged His identity and revealed involvements of His future mission (Matthew 26:64).

6. Jesus' divine character enabled Him to endure mockery and suffering without retaliation (Matthew 26:65-68).

7. Jesus' simple answer as to His kingship affirmed His divinity (Matthew 27:11).

8. Jesus' divine character needed no defense (Matthew 27:12-14).

Answers to Questions

1. Why was such a large group of armed men needed to take one so harmless as Jesus?

Apparently they were preparing for the possibility of a tumult during the feast. How would Jesus' friends respond? Whatever might happen, they would not leave any room for the possibility of escape for Jesus.

2. How does Jesus express nonresistance in these verses?

Jesus expressed nonresistance by going forth to voluntarily meet the multitude when He knew they were approaching Him. Jesus also meekly let Judas betray Him with a kiss, and He even called him friend. Jesus used the experience of Peter cutting off the servant of the high priest's ear to teach nonresistance. He rebuked Peter and restored the servant's ear, according to Luke's record. Jesus also declined to call for twelve legions of angels to save Him.

3. Of what value was Jesus' carefulness to fulfill the Scriptures?

The Scriptures are God's inspired message to mankind. They are pure, holy, and unchanging. They are the standard by which all men will be judged someday. Failure to willingly and fully obey them will separate us from God's presence and bar us from heaven.

4. Why was it difficult to find false witness among so many false witnesses?

Among the first false reports that were brought were no two that agreed. Finally, two false witnesses agreed on their accusations, and the council gave their support to the same.

5. What principles should guide our speech and actions when falsely accused?

When Jesus was adjured to break His silence, He took the opportunity to prophesy of future events that His audience would someday witness. He then kept quiet and let them rudely assault Him. When someone deliberately misinterprets our speech and turns it back on us by way of accusation, it generally feeds the wrong spirit to try to defend ourselves. Truth will stand on its own right. We also know that, at the end of life, we all shall stand before a righteous Judge who does all things right.

6. Why did Pilate marvel at Jesus' silence in the face of accusation?

This was no doubt an unusual response. Prisoners would usually try to defend themselves. Jesus' godly character made an impression on Pilate, a hardhearted Roman governor.

7. What is the significance of Pilate's question in Mathew 27:22?

When one has a personal confrontation with Jesus as Pilate did, he has a special accountability. Pilate was at a crossroads in his life. What should he do with Jesus? To remain neutral was not an option. Washing his hands before the multitude did not relieve him of his personal accountability and make him innocent.

Summarizing the Lesson

"For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country" (John 4:44). This was truly the case in the events of this lesson. The more Jesus displayed His divine character, the more His persecutors displayed their depraved and carnal nature. Pilate's conclusion was correct when he said, "I find in him no fault at all" (John 18:38).

Research Guide

Read and meditate on Isaiah 53. It relates much to this lesson.