

Good morning. In preparation for Easter.... we will spend the next month in the Gospels looking at some of the passages leading up to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.... with this question in mind?

What does it look like to live a life of SURRENDERED SACRIFICE as we SURRENDER (TO HIS) SACRIFICE?

The first week we began with the story of the woman who anointed Jesus with her tears and fragrant oil. (Luke 7:36-40; Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:3-8). Looking at Mary's interaction with Jesus, we asked ourselves what it looks like to live a life of surrendered sacrifice?

The next week we looked at the story of the Passover meal as seen in all four Gospels, Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, John 13:1-30, and Luke 22:7-23. Looking at Jesus's interaction with His disciples, again we asked what it looks like to live a life of surrendered sacrifice as we surrender (to His) sacrifice.

Once more, for this morning's purposes, let's define these two words, SURRENDERED SACRIFICE.

Surrendered is to "give up, to give oneself up into the power of another."

Sacrifice is "spiritual conduct that honors God, sacrifice in the name of Christ that glorifies God."

To live a life of surrendered sacrifice must be out of living a life surrendered to Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross. Any other surrendered sacrifice separate from the cross is out of a place of falsehood.

For this morning, we will be looking at the betrayal and arrest of Jesus. Again, we will be looking at all four Gospels (Matthew 26:47-64; Mark 14:43-65; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:1-14). We will mostly be in the book of Matthew and then refer to the other passages along the way.

We pick up the story after the Passover meal that Jesus had with His disciples, after Jesus prays in the garden of Gethsemane.

**Matthew 26:47-64**

**47 And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people.**

**48 Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him.” 49 Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed Him.**

**50 But Jesus said to him, “Friend, why have you come?”**

Now if you remember from the **Passover meal** (Jesus and His disciples), Jesus already knew that Judas would betray Him. So, isn't it interesting that **Jesus asked Judas a question He already knew the answer to**. We do see this **dynamic throughout Scripture**, Jesus asking questions He already knew the answer to. Those **questions often are more for the person He was asking ... to discover something deeper inside of them**, rather than them **simply giving Jesus information** he already knew.

**50 But Jesus said to him, “Friend, why have you come?”**

Matthew is the only **Gospel** that states this question. This word **friend**, in the **original language** is defined as “**a companion, comrade, a good friend.**” Isn't it **amazing that Jesus is addressing a man who He has already stated as His betrayer ... as a “good friend.”**

There are **several theories** to what **Jesus was thinking** as He **addressed Judas** a His **friend**. Some believe Jesus addressing Judas as His friend, was **giving Judas one last chance to make the right choice**. Others believe **Jesus was simply highlighting Jesus' friendship with Judas...as the possible point of betrayal**, meaning their **friendship is what allowed for the betrayal....** yet Jesus still **chose to live life with Judas**. Others see this **exchange** as another **example of Jesus doing things so completely opposite to the world ... by honoring His enemy through calling Him His friend**. We actually **do not know what Jesus was thinking** when He made this comment, but chances are ... the answer is yes to all three!

**What does it look like to live a life of SURRENDERED SACRIFICE as we SURRENDER (TO HIS) SACRIFICE?**

Jesus addressing Judas as His friend ... demonstrates Jesus' grace to us, even when we are not making the right choices in our lives. That being said ... Lord, is there anyone in my life (myself included) you are asking me to extend Your grace to?

Jesus addressing Judas as His friend ... demonstrates the risk of friendship and relationship and the importance of still stepping into those relationships not knowing the outcome. How many of you have experienced betrayal in your life? And the thing about betrayal is that ... it really can only happen in the context of close relationship. That is what makes it a betrayal. Yet, Jesus knowing He would be betrayed still did not keep Him from entering into close friendship and relationship with Judas. That being said... Lord, am I holding back from close relationships because of betrayals I have experienced in my past?

Jesus addressing Judas as His friend ... demonstrates how to love our enemies ... we love them as we would love a friend. That being said ... Lord, is there someone in my life I see as an enemy that you are inviting me to treat as a friend?

As we look at Jesus' betrayal by a friend... What does it look like to live a life of SURRENDERED SACRIFICE as we SURRENDER (TO HIS) SACRIFICE?

**Then they (detachment of troops, officers of the chief priests and Pharisees - John 18:3) came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. <sup>51</sup> And suddenly, one of those (Simon Peter – John 18:10) *who were* with Jesus stretched out *his* hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest (Malchus – John 18:10), and cut off his ear.**

In the Luke account of this story, we see that not only does Jesus correct Simon Peter for cutting of the servant's ear, but Jesus also heals that man's ear, Luke 22:50, <sup>50</sup> And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. <sup>51</sup> But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him.

## **Matthew 26**

<sup>52</sup> But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Or do you think that I cannot now pray to

## **My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?**

Jesus is establishing a very foundational Kingdom of God understanding, Jesus being taken away by this mob is not about a lack of Jesus' authority or even a lack of Father God's sovereignty. In fact...Jesus says I can simply **pray to My Father, and He will provide Me** what I would need to change this situation. It is not about changing the current situation, that being Jesus' arrest. This is about **trusting God's** and His plan.

Jesus goes on to say ...

**<sup>54</sup> How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"**

**<sup>55</sup> In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. <sup>56</sup> But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled."**

Again, Jesus is speaking to a foundational Kingdom of God understanding...this that is happening is completely in God's timing and plan.

**Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.**

Now, I do not blame the disciples for leaving Jesus ... I am sure they were scared and did not know what to do. It is an interesting response though ... considering that Jesus just spoke to God's authority and sovereignty when He said He could **pray to (His) My Father, and He will provide (Him) Me** and He pointed out that the mob could have taken Him out at any time (**sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me**) ... so why now?

As I reflected on this thought, I am reminded of the importance to stay Present with Jesus through difficult and scary situations. My temptation is to become fearful when everything around me seems chaotic...and run away as the disciples did. Even though I understand God's authority and sovereignty...when I do not see Him exercise that authority and sovereignty the way I would like Him to...it can leave me confused and afraid. I think the answer is to stay present with Jesus, no matter the pain, disappointment,

confusion we may feel. How do we stay present with Jesus? Trust who He is and not your circumstances.

To live a life of SURRENDERED SACRIFICE ... is to stay present in difficult situations. Lord, is there a place in my life right now I am running from? If so, Lord help me to be present with You in this situation. Lord, what does that look like? It can be as simple as acknowledging your fear with the Lord regarding this situation. Trusting God's authority and sovereignty keeps us present with Jesus.

Jesus is taken to the Sanhedrin... **Matthew 26**

<sup>57</sup> And those who had laid hold of Jesus led *Him* away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. <sup>58</sup> But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end.

<sup>59</sup> Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, <sup>60</sup> but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward <sup>61</sup> and said, "This *fellow* said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' "

<sup>62</sup> And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What *is it* these men testify against You?" <sup>63</sup> But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"

<sup>64</sup> Jesus said to him, "*It is as you said*. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

I want to pause and look at Jesus' response to the high priest. In the next chapter of **Matthew**, we also see Jesus respond to His accusers in a very similar way.

**Matthew 27:11-14**

**<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus said to him, “*It is as you say.*” <sup>12</sup> And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to Him, “Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?” <sup>14</sup> But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.**

Jesus' response to accusation ... either silence, or He responded with the agreement with the truth of His identity.

**<sup>63</sup> But Jesus kept silent. (silence) (High Priest) Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!” <sup>64</sup> Jesus said to him, “*It is as you said.* (identity). (Matthew 26)**

**<sup>12</sup> And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. (silence) (Governor) “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus said to him, “*It is as you say.*” (identity) (Matthew 27)**

There are two things all of humanity has in common.

First every human being is made in the image of God. Should they choose ... their God given identity ... is as a son or daughter of God.

Secondly, regardless if you are aware of your identity as a child of God, you have an accuser that works day and night. That accuser's sole purpose is to lie about you and who you truly are.

We can learn from Jesus' response to His accusers ... our only response is the truth of our identity. That means we first receive our identity as a child of God (salvation). And then we walk out our identity by believing what God says about us and our actions being in alignment with that truth. The silence suggests there is no other way to respond. No arguing, no persuasion, only the truth of my identity.

To live a life of SURRENDERED SACRIFICE ... is to respond to the voice of the accuser with my identity, who I am as a son or daughter of God.

Again as we look at the story of Jesus' betrayal and arrest...I see three invitations in the text.

To live a life of SURRENDERED SACRIFICE ... Jesus betrayal by a friend.

To live a life of SURRENDERED SACRIFICE ... trusting God's authority and sovereignty keeping you present with Jesus.

To live a life of SURRENDERED SACRIFICE ... is to respond to the voice of the accuser with my identity, who I am as a son or daughter of God.