

## John 18:1-11, “Jesus Betrayed”

6.25.23

As you’re turning, in a moment, we’re going to show you Romans 5:20. But, I believe you may already know it. See if you can complete it for me. Where sin abounded, grace abounded WHAT? MORE.

### **Romans 5:20**

**<sup>20</sup> Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.**

---

Now, why do I start out with this verse? Well, it’s because of this picture...



That’s an awful scene. What’s happening? Of course, that’s Judas betraying Jesus, with a kiss no less. The title of our new series we begin today is: “Jesus Betrayed.” Now, keep looking at that picture and you’ll see Romans 5:20 in action. Where sin abounded, grace abounded all the more. You see, for Jesus, the hour had come, when the religious elite, led by Judas would cause sin to abound...but for Jesus, He would shine through that ghastly darkness with the light of grace that abounded even more!

---

You know, as we look at this depiction. (See it again):



we see betrayal, injustice, arrest, the beginning of torture...torture that would culminate in the execution of Jesus on a cross. We see that Jesus' hour had finally come, an hour, that was not coincidentally, also Satan's hour...the hour which he would be allowed to torture the Savior, but only because it was part of God's sovereign plan. Yes, the hour had come...Jesus' 3-year ministry was over. And now the unfolding of God's plan to redeem us had finally come.

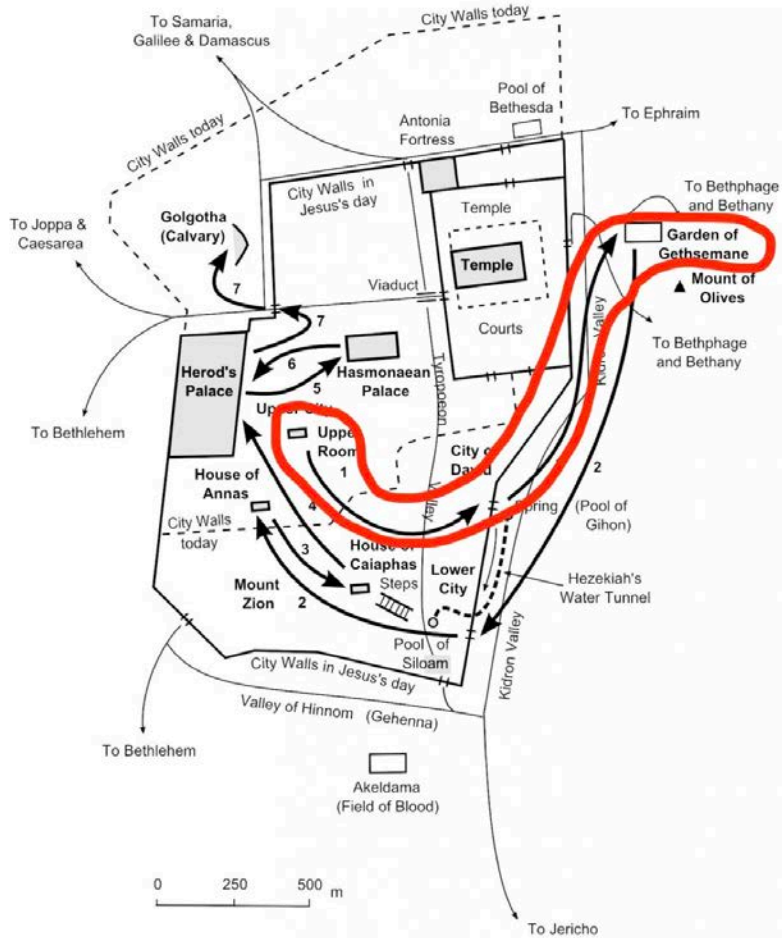
---

#### **John 18:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.<sup>2</sup> Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" <sup>5</sup> They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he."<sup>[a]</sup> Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus<sup>[b]</sup> said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup> So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." <sup>9</sup> This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." <sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant<sup>[c]</sup> and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) <sup>11</sup> So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

---

During Jesus' three-year ministry, He had gone many, many times to Gethsemane. It was a beautiful garden, a place of comfort, fellowship and safety...until the night Judas came. I want to show you the map we've used to locate all that is happening. See this map (see the red lines):

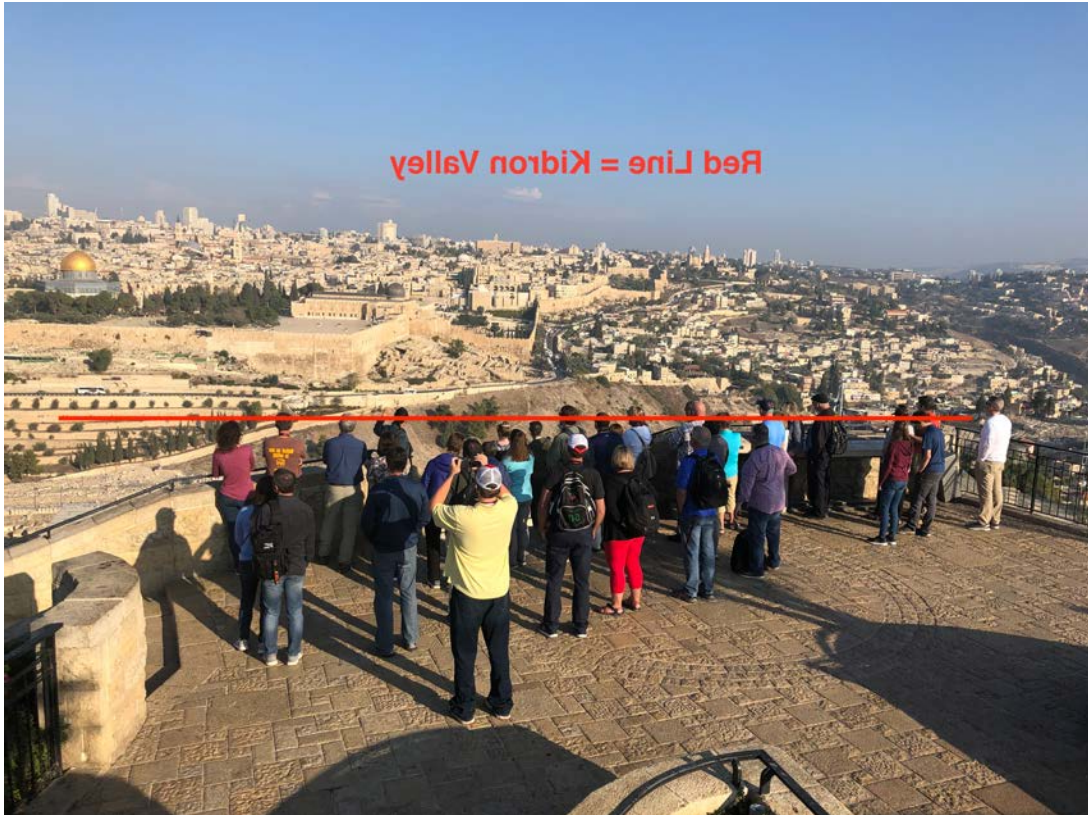


showing the trek that Jesus and the disciples made from the upper room, across the Kidron Valley, to the Garden of Gethsemane. I was in Jerusalem in 2018. See this picture...this is our group looking from the Mt. Olives back toward Jerusalem.



You'll see the Eastern Gate and you'll also see Caiaphas' house (the house of the High Priest...like the Governor's mansion) and the location where scholars believe the Upper Room was located. Here's another picture looking back to the left





and it shows the Kidron Valley (that's the red line). Now the word: "Kidron" means: "dusty or gloomy." The valley is dusty in that it's mostly dry unless it rains hard OR there is blood flowing in that valley from the sacrifices from the celebration of Passover and the killing of thousands of lambs.

---

You say, "Well, I guess there was a trickle of blood in that valley?" No...it was a massive stream flowing from the Temple. Josephus, the Jewish historian records some 30 years after Jesus' death the number of lambs slain at Passover numbered 256,000. Church, it was a bloodbath at Passover and the blood flowing through the Kidron valley looked like a torrent. **For now, Jesus has gone to the Garden of Gethsemane to meet Judas**...and you know what...think about it...life on earth began in a Garden, (Eden), where sin would enter the world and cause all of this mess and the need for our Savior to come to this Garden (Gethsemane) as Jesus obeyed His Father's command. Interesting isn't it...Eden, the garden of disobedience, Gethsemane, the garden of obedience. Let me show you where Gethsemane is. See this picture...



Gethsemane is on the Mount of Olives and that's fitting, because the name "Gethsemane" means: "oil press," and that's because of all the Olive trees that were there and are still there. Here it is from 2018:



and here's another angle





Garden of Gethsemane

---

Now, in Jesus' day, olives were picked in olive gardens like Gethsemane and put into a press where the oil would be squeezed out and isn't that a picture of what's begun for Jesus...pressing, squeezing, suffering. For Jesus, in that Garden, the press of suffering had begun. Betrayal!

**John 18:2**

**<sup>2</sup> Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples.**

---

Of course Judas knew the place. He was one of the Apostles, the Treasurer of the group, of course he knew. And I believe Jesus had likely shared in the upper room where they were going after the finished the meal. Remember, Satan entered Judas, and then Jesus in essence, kicked them out, saying: "What you are going to do, go now quickly and do it." So, I'm convinced Judas knew exactly where to take the soldiers and Jewish leaders: Gethsemane. Gethsemane...a special place for the Apostles and Jesus because it was there that Jesus had often trained, encouraged and counseled His Apostles.

I want to say this: speaking of counseling...this brought to my mind the need to make sure that you, our church family understand how Pastor Dale and I counsel. With average attendance of 750 each week...we share the load of counseling and meeting needs...and that means as our schedules fill up each week...you will need to be okay with getting whoever is available. Some weeks my schedule will get filled and you'll get Pastor Dale and some weeks his will get filled and you'll get me. So, thank you for your understanding as we share the counseling. **I counsel. Mon. - Wed. afternoons** and Pastor Dale counsels Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings.

---

Well, Jesus is no longer going to escape from the hands of His enemies...which He had done many times...now, He's going to let them have Him, because His hour had come.

**John 18:3**

**<sup>3</sup> 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.**

---

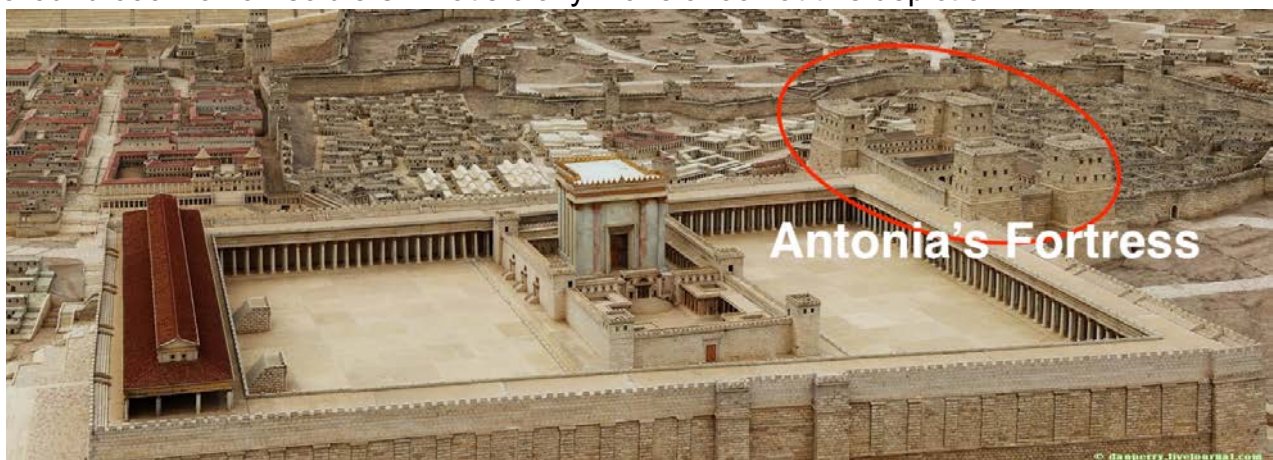
Now, Church, why would these soldiers and officers have to come armed? Well, you may remember, earlier in this week leading up to His arrest and crucifixion, Jesus had gone into the Temple and cleared it out. Jesus had literally run out thousands of people from the Temple grounds; “My Father’s house is to be house of prayer, but you’ve made it a den of thieves.” Listen, they were afraid of Jesus because of His power. They all knew that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead just a few days earlier. They knew He was a miracle worker. They were very keenly aware of His power.

---

And such is the idiocy of unbelief. They refused to believe that Jesus was from God...from heaven...even though everything He did gave evidence that He was no normal man. It’s mindboggling...really...that they felt the need to send an army of men to take Jesus, an unarmed Galilean carpenter, turned teacher? No, they knew He was more...but, refused to trust in Him.

---

So, who came to get Jesus? Soldiers. Soldiers described by the Apostle John as a “band of soldiers.” A band is part of a Roman Cohort. A band was one-tenth of a legion, which was 6,000 men...so this was around 600 Roman soldiers. That’s crazy! Take a look at this depiction:



That’s Antonia’s Fortress, located at the northwestern portion of the Temple area. The Roman soldiers would have been garrisoned there. You’ll notice Antonia’s Fortress had a tower. That tower overlooked the temple grounds and much of the city. During the feast of Passover, more soldiers than normal would have been brought down from Caesarea, which is where Pilate normally stayed. See the map.

---



Caesarea was where Rome governed Israel from, by stationing Pilate there along the Mediterranean Sea. So, there are 600 Roman soldiers coming with Judas and because the Garden of Gethsemane is not that large, there's no way all of these men could have gone inside, therefore many were likely stationed outside, perhaps even surrounding it.

But, there's something else... John tells us there were "officers." These officers were from the Temple Police. This implies the Jewish leaders expected resistance and why they commissioned them to come...it's also good to know that ultimately, it was the Jewish Officers who were the ones who took Jesus into custody. Can you imagine all of these hundreds of men marching through the streets? And what about the crowd that followed...you know there had to be ambulance chasers. The press of people must have been tremendous, but out of the crowd steps Judas (can you imagine what the Apostles were thinking...oh no...not Judas...he's one of us). Luke tells us in His gospel...

**Luke 22:48**

**48 but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"**

Church, I don't know how to say this in any other way...but, Jesus unmasks Judas by flat out saying...to put it in our vernacular, "Are you really going to make this look like you love me...you're betraying the Messiah with a kiss, REALLY?" You know, Jesus does that...He's kind...but, He's not going to allow us to wear a mask of hypocrisy, not in His presence. Are you faking it? How are you living? Are you kissing Jesus in public, but behind the scenes, in the cover of darkness are you someone else, A FAKE?

I will say this...to be fair...I believe Judas worked out this sign (kiss) for the authorities, or perhaps they (the police) may have even asked Judas to give them a sign because it's dark and they didn't want to make any mistakes by arresting the wrong man. Something else we can't miss,



remember...who had embodied Judas? Satan! Satan kissed Jesus...oh the gall of this! But, that's how Satan works. He's so twisted...so disgusting! Verse 4.

**John 18:4**

<sup>4</sup> Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?"

---

Jesus knew every detail of what was going to happen to Him, because of His omniscience. Nothing takes him by surprise. Listen, Jesus was not tragically arrested. He was no victim...His arrest was part of the plan that would lead Him to the cross to pay our sin debt. Remember what He said in:

**John 10:18**

<sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

---

Jesus was no victim. He was not trapped. He was not blackmailed. He was not tricked, deceived or surprised. He went for the cross for you! Something else: did you notice that Jesus **came forward!** John records that He did. Talk about moxie and courage! He said, "Who are you looking for?" He's going to make them **own up** WITH THEIR OWN WORDS exactly what they're doing...

**John 18:5**

<sup>5</sup> They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he."<sup>[a]</sup> Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

---

GOODNESS! Judas was standing with them. No longer was he standing with Jesus. He had defected. People still do that today...they choose silver over Savior and the **silver is not always money**...but I guarantee it has something to do with pride and not wanting to give in (surrender). Judas showed He was never saved to begin with. Verse 6...

**John 18:6**

<sup>6</sup> When Jesus<sup>[b]</sup> said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

---

In verse 5, do you have a little letter in your Bible beside of the phrase, "I am he." If you look at the bottom of the page, you'll see in the Greek it simply says: "I AM." **Ego eimi.** (ego- I me). Why is that significant? Well, "I AM," is the name of God. Church, think about it...they have weapons/swords...those meant nothing. They were useless against the power of God incarnate. Jesus could speak the word and they would have been destroyed instantly. All these strong soldiers...on the ground...the Temple Police, on the ground. The religious leaders, chief priests, they all went down like dominos...on the ground. What power! He simply speaks the name of God and they collapse.

---

By the way...did you notice in verse 6 how they drew "back" and fell to the ground. They didn't fall "forward." When you fall forward, you're worshipping...but, when you fall back...you're bowled over. Question: Are you worshipping...are falling backward? Forward or backward? This is scene fulfillment of a prophecy in Psalm 27:

**Psalm 27:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold<sup>[a]</sup> of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? <sup>2</sup> When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

---

Jesus is in total control at that very moment and now. Watch verse 7...

**John 18:7-8**

<sup>7</sup> So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go."

---

Jesus is always thinking about us... Here He is; yet again, thinking about His disciples. Of all that He was going through, He was thinking of their safety and protection. And church, this is a microcosm of what Jesus would do on the cross...He gave Himself up for us... Jesus said to this mob, "I'm the one you're looking for...let them go." Jesus is giving them orders...because, again, He's in total control and this was all prophesied to happen. Verse 9.

**John 18:9**

<sup>9</sup> This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one."

---

Church, as followers of Jesus we're safe in His hands, because Ephesians 1:14 tells us that when we're saved, we're sealed by His Spirit guaranteeing will get to heaven. But for Judas, can you imagine how he felt hearing those words... "I have lost not one..." **He was never part of them.** Jesus knew from the beginning who Judas was...and what role he would play...and for Judas...he was following through on his promise to deliver Jesus over for the price of a common slave, 30 pieces of silver. **Well, then Peter springs into action...I guess thinking He could outduel a 1,000 men!**

**John 18:10**

<sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant<sup>[c]</sup> and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

---

Scholars tell us, the sword Peter likely used was Roman short sword, called a "gladius," which could be hidden under his clothing. Luke tells us:

**Luke 22:51**

<sup>51</sup> But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him.

Which ear was it? **Right.** Why do I bring this up... I mean, it's almost immaterial to us...but, not to the one that it happened to because do you think Malchus would know? Peter, (Scripture says), cut it off. It's lying on the ground...mangled in the dirt. You know Peter was a good fisherman, but terrible as a swordsman. He got an ear, even though he was (I'm sure) aiming for a head.

Good Ole Peter...he said he would lay down his life for Jesus and I guess he thought that this was it...but, that's the problem...Peter was trying to figure all this out on his own. Jesus had things under control...but, Peter didn't think He did. So, he took matters into his own hands.

---

Oh, can't we be guilty of the same thing? Getting ahead of the Lord! Yes, we can admire Peter's courage and sincerity, but he showed zeal without knowledge. You know, we can be so much like Peter. Don't make hasty decisions outside of His Word... Trust Jesus...don't get ahead of Him. Read His Word! Church, we don't need to grab our own sword and hack our way through the world. I promise you we'll be cutting off ears when we do that.

---

Well, it's miracle time...Jesus now performs His last miracle before the cross...an astounding miracle in front of those motley crowd. He healed the man. Jesus touched his ear and healed the man...and it's a good thing for Peter's sake that He did, or likely Peter would have been arrested and crucified with Jesus. Jesus had terse words for Peter...

**John 18:11**

<sup>11</sup> So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

---



Warren Wiersbe says: Peter had a sword in his hand, while the Lord had a cup in His. Peter was resisting God's will, while the Son was accepting His Father's will. Jesus had a job to do...to drink the cup of God's wrath...you see, the "drinking of a cup" in Scripture illustrates judgment and the acceptance of suffering and pain and sorrow. For instance, when Babylon captured Jerusalem, Isaiah tells us that the city had "drunk to the dregs the cup of trembling" (Is 51:17).

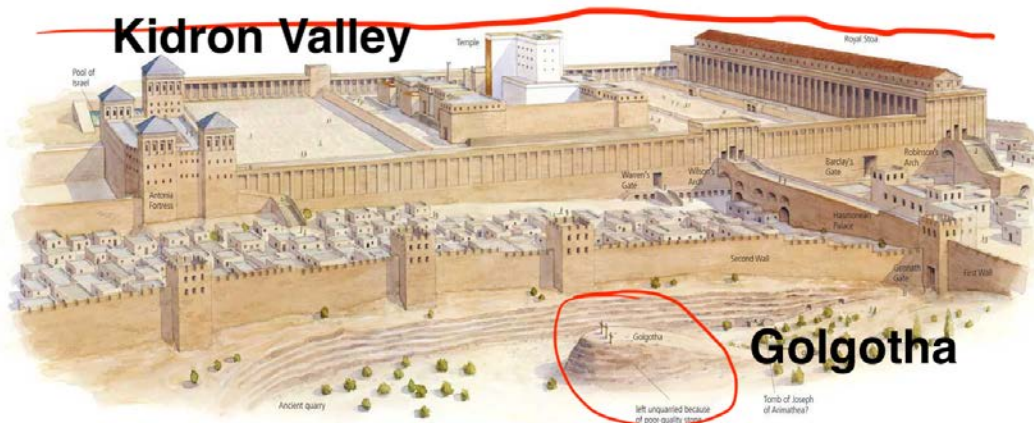
Jesus hour had come...they've arrested Him and He would be led back up the Kidron Valley...to Caiaphas' house for trial... See it...



Back up the Kidron Valley...to Caiaphas' house (left). Church, here's what the Kidron Valley looks like today...



They've made it into a walkway for tourists...and I walked this path in 2018 and Lord willing I will again next summer. But, I want to show you something else...Jesus is going to end up on the other side of the Temple. On the Kidron Valley side is the Eastern Gate...but, Jesus is going to end up on the western side of the Temple. This place...



COPYRIGHT © 2008 BY CROSSWAY BIBLES

In a matter of hours, while blood from lambs would come pouring out of the Eastern Gate down into the Kidron Valley...on the other side, the blood of Jesus would be flowing down Golgotha. The final LAMB OF GOD, who takes away the sin of the world. That's a surreal thought.

What has the Lord said to you today? Are you falling forward in worship or backward in rebellion? Are you trying to hack your way through life like Peter? Chopping off...(not ears)...but, maybe relationships, bringing pain and heartache...just not trusting the Lord to provide...but, taking matters into your own hands? Jesus died on Golgotha to give you life... Don't you think it's time to fall down at HIS feet, forward...in worship and honor? That's how we're to live for Him!