

Guilt & Grace in the Garden

I. Slide#1 Announce:

- A. **Slide#2 Ladies Christmas Celebration.** Guest speaker is **Annie Stone** from *Maranatha*. Craft boutique in gym following.
1. This is a **free event** but if you'd like to help the women's ministry, they'd love if u bring some baked goods to sell at the women's booth.
 2. We are also collecting items for **Camp Alandale** (just heard from a few weeks ago)
 3. We're collecting **fleece blankets and beanies** for the foster kids who attend **Winter Camp**. If you can bring 1 to the event it would be a huge blessing. **Call Kel questions.**
- B. **Slide#3 Movie Night** at 6pm. - *Not Today*. "None of us our free if one of us is enslaved."
- C. **Slide#4 Thanksgiving Eve** - Wed Nite 7pm Jr High up in Sanct **Worship/Communion/Thanks Wall**

II. Intro:

- A. **Slide#5 What is one of the most famous kisses of all times?**
1. **Disney** might say, its when the **princess** kisses the **frog** & it turns into the **prince**.
 - a) Or when **Sleeping Beauty** awakens from her 100 yr. long sleep by the kiss of a prince.
 2. **Slide#6** I like the famous kiss where...A young Soldier and his Commander had to ride a train to a conference in Europe. They found their seats & find out they are in a cabin with a beautiful young woman & her grandmother facing them.

Within the first hour everyone realized that the young woman and the soldier are attracted to each other. Then the train goes through a tunnel and everyone hears a kissing sound and a loud slap. *One the other side of the tunnel...*

The commander thinks, "I am glad my soldier was able to get a kiss but I wish she hadn't missed him and slapped me."

The Grandmother thinks, "Hmm, the nerve of the young man to kiss my granddaughter! Well at least he got what he deserved when she slapped him."

The Granddaughter thinks, "That was nice of him to kiss me, but I wish my Grandmother hadn't slapped him."

The Soldier is thinking, "Wow I got to kiss the girl & slap my commander all at once"
 3. **Slide#7** Maybe it is the picture of **Edith Shain** kissing a sailor on **VJ day** at end of WWII
 - a) "The picture," Edith says, "it says so many things - *hope, love, peace and tomorrow*. The end of the war was a wonderful experience, and that photo represents all those feelings."
- B. **Slide#8 Another kiss**, many years earlier represents the **opposite** of Edith's kiss. The Judas kiss.
1. For many, **this kiss** represents *despair, betrayal, war, and yesterday*. Because of the kiss, the world today has the *hope, love, peace, and eternity* promised by the Lord Jesus. It is undoubtedly the most **infamous kiss** of all time.

C. Slide#9 Title: **Guilt & Grace in the Garden**

D. Outline: 5 symbols...A Garden, A Kiss, A Sword, A Cup, A Cloak.

III. Slide#10 THE GARDEN OF OBEDIENCE

- A. History started in a Garden (Eden). History will end one day in a Garden (Heaven's Main St).
1. *In between* we find Jesus in this Garden, the Garden of Gethsemane.
 2. In the 1st Garden, we have the 1st Adam & it became a Garden of disobedience & sin.
 3. In Gethsemane we have the last Adam & it became a Garden of obedience & submission
- B. Chief priests, Scribes, & the elders (i.e. the Sanhedrin) were able to issue *A Warrant for His Arrest*.
- C. Judas, one of the twelve (43) – Which made the crime more *heinous*.
1. Judas, Seller of the Savior. Turning in Jesus.
 2. The one who would commit **suicide**, 1st commits **homicide** & an attempted **deicide** (an attempt on the life of **God**, *if that were possible*).
 3. Judas brought a great multitude w/swords & clubs – proving thus he totally misunderstood Jesus, & His mission.
 - a) Or perhaps...He might do a miracle??? [but what then Judas?]
 - b) We note the **posse** of Judas & the **poise** of Jesus.
- D. **Swords** – Roman soldiers.
1. John 18:3 Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.
- E. **Clubs** – local recruits, obviously put together quickly.
- F. (44) A signal – Why?
1. Very dark. Moonlight & torches were the only light. All would be dressed very similar. Most likely all would have long hair, facial hair, & speak a similar dialect. So, a signal was needed.
- G. **Lead Him away safely** – Is this possible?
1. Judas, *a Greater than Samson is here!*
- H. With no Miranda rights, the posse takes him in.
1. Was Jesus thinking about Is.53:7? He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.
- I. Jesus, In custody...but In charge. In custody...In control.
- J. Jesus was still *in charge* of the agenda for that night. He was and is *Lord of all*. He was *not a victim*. Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

1. He deliberately allowed Himself to be arrested & taken prisoner. His time had come. **But** the soldiers were not allowed to do this without **first bowing to Him**.

IV. Slide#11 **THE KISS OF TREACHERY**

- A. Sealed with a kiss. Kiss of death. Kiss & tell. The most infamous kiss of all time.
 1. Prov.27:6 **Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.**
- B. Imagine the personal hurt to Jesus to have Judas betray Him.
 1. Judas had been **hand picked**. He was one of Jesus' **closest friends**. He had been given the **special responsibility** of being **treasurer** for the entire band of disciples.
 2. **Have you ever been betrayed by:**
 - a) A spouse? A friend who gossiped away your reputation? A family member? A coworker who took credit for your work? A company who fired you just before retirement? A business partner who progressively shoved you aside?
Then you understand something of the *emotional suffering* Jesus went through.
- C. **Kissed Him** – (καταφιλέω) In the NT we have *phileo*, “to kiss, to be friendly,” **BUT HERE** *kataphileo*, “to kiss thoroughly, to be very friendly”.
 1. The **kata** makes it **intensive**, indicating a prolonged kissing.
 2. *Thayer*, “to kiss much, kiss again and again, kiss tenderly.”
 3. **Same word** is used of the **woman** who kissed the feet of Christ;
Same word used of the **father's** greeting of the returning prodigal;
Same word used of the farewell to Paul of the **Ephesian Christians**.
 - a) **The kiss** a customary mark of respect. *And now*, these tokens of **devotion** turned into symbols of **treachery**.
 4. **The betraying Judas kiss**, the *grimmest & most awful* thing in the entire gospel story.
 - a) **Judas' kiss** showed how **low** a human heart could go;
Jesus' response showed how **high** a heart could soar. Kent Hughes
(1) “**Friend, why have you come?**”
- D. **Have you ever been betrayed? Even worse, betrayed w/a kiss?**
Are you entitled to hatred? Whom have you given the Judas kiss to?

V. Slide#12 **THE SWORD OF REBELLION**

- A. Peter's sword symbolizes *Rebellion* against the will of God.
 1. Peter should have known that Jesus would be arrested and that He would willingly surrender to His enemies.
 2. Peter made every mistake possible:

- a) **Slide#13** He fought the **wrong enemy**. He used the **wrong weapon**. He had the **wrong motive**. **And...**He accomplished the **wrong result**.
- b) He simply imitated the officers who came to arrest Jesus. And in so doing He was openly **resisting** the will of God **and hindering** the work that Jesus came to accomplish.
- (1) He was sincere, but sincerely wrong.
 - (2) How did he get to this place?...from his *prayerlessness* we talked about last week.
- B. This was probably just too much for Peter to stand there & take. **So**, he severs the right ear of *Malchus*, the High priests servant.
1. **Mark** probably thought it too dangerous to reveal **Peters** name when writing this. **[John will some 40 years later, after Peters death]**
 2. **But**, Jesus offers *no resistance* to His arrest, & doesn't want any well-meaning interventions on His behalf.
 - a) **Slide#14a** We must learn to never fight **spiritual** battles w/**physical** weapons.
 - (1) 2 Cor.10:3,4(NIV) **For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.**
 3. **Had Jesus not healed Malchus**, Peter would have been arrested as well; & there might have been **4 crosses on Calvary**.
 - a) **And if 4 crosses on Calvary...**then no sermon after Pentecost by Peter where 3000 get saved; nor 5000 following that. **Nor** all the stories in the 1st 5 chapters of Acts.
 - b) **And what if Peter succeeded?** He would have kept Jesus from going to the cross???.
 - (1) **Slide#14b** How easy it is to be *out of step w/Jesus* when we think we are **serving** Him, even **defending** Him.
 - c) There is a sad story of 2 prominent preachers from the 19th cent., **Newman Smith & Robert Hall**. A controversy arose between the 2 on some religious point, & Rev. Smith wrote a bitter pamphlet denouncing Hall & his doctrine. Having finished the pamphlet, Smith was having trouble coming up w/what he thought was a proper title. So he sent the book to a good friend for a suggestion. Some time earlier Rev. Smith had written a widely read & helpful pamphlet entitled, *Come to Jesus*. When his friend read the new pamphlet against Hall, he sent the pamphlet back w/this suggestion, **"The title I suggest for your pamphlet is this, "Go to Hell, by the author of Come to Jesus!"**¹
- C. **Slide#14c** We don't fight *for His kingdom*. We sacrifice. We suffer. We surrender *for His kingdom*
- D. **Lopped off any ears lately?** Is there any blood on the ground due to a blow you have self-righteously & wrongly inflicted?
1. **I mean, has your tongue** cut up **anyone's ears** this week w/its razor-sharpness?

¹ Clarence Macartney; The woman of Tekoh & other sermons of Bible Characters; pg.128.

2. It's hard to remember when someone's attacking you **that**, **our struggle is not against flesh and blood**(them), **but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world & against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**
 3. It's much easier to **grab any sword of the flesh** & start wielding, **then** to pick up the **sword of the spirit** & use it aright!
- E. Remember the Lord specializes in restoring **loped-off ears**.

VI. Slide#15 **THE EAR OF GRACE**

- A. **Jesus' last miracle. The most beautiful & touching of all.**
1. He kept the best wine, *the best miracle*, until the last.
 2. Jesus great text was in **Mt.5:43-45**. **Now**, His great illustration of that text.
 - a) **Slide#16** You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' **But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.**
 - (1) He practiced what He preached.
- B. **Jesus grace** shined through, not only with the **ear** that night, **but...**
1. **When** He crossed the Kidron, fully conscious that Judas was betraying Him.
 2. **When** He went into the Garden of Gethsemane surrendered to the Father's will.
 3. **When** He protected His disciples. (He told them to let them go in John's gospel)
 4. **When** He yielded Himself into the hands of sinners that He might suffer & die for us.

VII. Slide#17 **THE CUP OF SUBMISSION**

- A. **Peter took up a sword, but Jesus took a cup.**
1. Never fear **the cup** that the Father has prepared for **you**.
 2. **Jesus, how did you do it?** He could **submit** to the abuse of men **because** He had **already submitted** to the will of God.
- B. **Slide#18** The hands of the creator **bound!**
1. **Hands** that **gathered** little children on His knee.
 2. **Hands** that **touched** the leper and cleansed him.
 3. **Hands** that **broke** the 5 loaves and 2 fish and fed 5000.
 4. **Hands** that **formed** Adam from the dust of the ground.
 5. **The hands that made the men who were now binding Him.**
- C. Do you feel **bound** this morning?

1. In a marriage where the love has run out? In a house too small for your family? In a body riddled w/pain? To an elderly parent or relative with Alzheimer's. By responsibility that is not really yours? By memories of abuse?
 - a) Sometimes binding is the will of God.
 - (1) Jesus was bound here **and** He was in God's will.
 - (2) He simply **submitted**, not primarily to the soldiers, **but** to His Father's will.

VIII.Slide#19 THE CLOAK OF FEAR

- A. Amos 2:16 **The most courageous men of might Shall flee naked in that day, Says the Lord.**
- B. Running naked from the garden of obedience.
- C. **All forsook Him & fled** (Place yourself there running with them)
 1. Legs running, arms pumping, sweat dripping, hard breathing, heart pounding, constant hiding, breath catching. **Now** wondering, definitely pondering, fear gripping, thoughts tangling, feelings wrangling, fault finding, Spirit grieving, guilt swelling, responsibility owning, much weeping, still confusing.
- D. If this was **John Mark**, as most guess, then he's saying in essence, *all forsook Him & fled even I.*
 1. **How does this reflect Jesus' warning about the cost of discipleship? In trying to save himself, the young man loses what little he has.**
 - a) **Whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.**
 - b) **If you want to be my to be my follower you must love me more than your own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters - yes, more than your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.**
 - c) **Whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.**
 - d) **Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.**
 - e) **No one, having put his hand to the plow, and **looking back**, is fit for the kingdom of God.**
 2. **Slide#20 "Love so amazing, Love so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all."**
- E. **Run from any difficult discipleship challenges lately?**
 1. Steel yourself in **prayer & submission** to the heavenly Father.
- F. **What is in your hand today...the sword, or the cup?**