

Jesus Walks through the Valley!! (Slide 1)

John 18

Reading: Psalm 41:9 & Isaiah 53:7 & Ephesians 5:1-2

John 18:1-11 (Slide 2)

1 When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. 2 And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. (Slide 3) 3 Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. 4 Jesus therefore, knowing all (Slide 4) things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?"

5 They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. (Slide 5) 6 Now when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground.

7 Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?"

And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

(Slide 6) 8 Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way," 9 that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none."

(Slide 7) ***10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.***

11 So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"

In John 18, we see Jesus has closed His prayer and is now on the move with His Apostles to prepare mentally for the challenge of what is next in His very young life!! The very purpose that He came to earth as we have seen in scripture and we'll see later in this chapter!

The Bible records here that He and His disciples left that upper room where they observed the Lord's supper and the time of prayer, traveling across the "*Brook Kidron*."

To formulate a picture in our mind, what is the accuracy of this *Brook*, or as it is translated here: "*Kidron*," we must have the proper imagery. When we read the word "*Brook*" we generally think of a flowing body of water, like a creek or stream.

(Slide 8) "*Funk and Wagner's New Standard Bible Dictionary*" describes "*Kidron*" as a valley just east of Jerusalem. The stream which flows through this valley, according to their Bible dictionary, is dry for much of the year. The Spring "*Gihon*" empties out into the valley at certain times of the year.

Thayer seems to substantiate this in His description of the "*Brook*:" "*Flowing in winter, a torrent.*" I believe these to be

reliable sources and it helps us to see that the *Brook Kidron* wasn't a barrier against their walking.

I draw your attention to Jesus and disciples walking along in this valley so that we can visualize their demeanor and the face of our Saviour as He walks to once again pray.

What was about to happen is not something He just found out about. He didn't have to guess at the outcome for Him when he reached the Garden and what those who opposed Him would do!! He already knew.

That's why He said to Peter: ***"Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"***

It's why He said in:

John 6:63-64 & 70-71 (Slide 9)

63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.

(Slide 10) ***70 Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" 71 He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.***

And in:

John 10:14-16 (Slide 11)

14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. 15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

(Slide 12) **16 And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.**

Sheep cannot fend for themselves. They cannot protect themselves. They cannot lead themselves. They must have a shepherd!!

*I pause here for a moment to comment on the “**other sheep I have which are not of this fold**”-This does not mean another church!! Scripture is clear about that.*

Part of what Jesus is saying is the coming together of the Jewish nation under Christ. In particular, those who were baptized by John.

As we look to understand John 10, the first part of the chapter, Jesus refers to the sheep as the Jewish people who would conform to His teachings. However, He expands the scope of those sheep to include all peoples and all nations and all races.

The establishment of this concept for today is important because the church acts accordingly to teach the way of salvation through Christ. All that would seek salvation are to have that opportunity!! It is the mission of the church!! We should not shirk from that responsibility!!

To confirm what Jesus is saying in verse 16 we must look at what He says in the way He spoke regarding the Sheep

and the one fold. It is spoken prospectively because the other sheep will include the *gentiles* and the *one fold* is the *one church*. *The one shepherd is all under Christ!*

I believe Jesus lays out the intent of the composition of the New Testament church in these statements.

We see this principle unfold in Acts 18. As we have mentioned on several occasions, Apostle Paul in his travels would first go to the synagogue to reason with the Jews.

(Slide 13) In verse 5, the writer tells us that Paul was***devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.*** Their response.....was to ***“resist and to blaspheme.”***

Paul shook off the dust of their ground from his garments and called them out for their rejection: ***“Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”***

Paul would now be a teacher for the gentiles and to only the responding Jews and He was successful right away.

Acts 18:9-10 (Slide 14)

9 And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; 10 for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.”

This is important because as He walks in that valley with His disciples, because He died for all, including you and

me, I begin to see Him carry my burdens on His back. I can see it in His face as He knows that He must endure torment and an agonizing death!!

He will face it alone and I see agony in my Savior's face as He has accepted the will of the Father. Agony, yet, I see resolve. What He's about to allow to happen is voluntary. If it were involuntary, His death would not have been a sacrifice and He could not save us.

We all know one day we will die. ***"it is appointed unto men once to die."*** As a Christian, it isn't the idea of death that is so distressing, yet, the manner of our death is a different story. Jesus knew the horrific way He would die and it brought Him agony of which we can see through our minds eye as He walks in the valley, His duress. Yet, He volunteered anyway:

"Oh what wonderful, wonderful love that brought Him from Heaven above!"

John 10:17-18 (Slide 15)

17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

Knowing didn't make it any easier!!

We are supposed to count it all joy to face persecution for our belief in Christ, but I do not think that means jumping

up and down and shouting for joy!! It means that we are on the right track and living the life we are called to live!!

"If the world hates me it will hate you!!"

So for Just a moment I want us to consider the face and demeanor of Jesus and as He walks through this *dry valley!*

How would you feel if you were going to die for someone else who deserved to die? I know how I would be! Let them die for their own transgression!!

How would you feel if you knew the manner of death you would face? But not only that, but the treatment, the torment and abuse you would receive beforehand!

How would you feel if those that you held so dear were about to abandon you and even one you chose, that was so close, would betray you. *"The ones who are the closest so often are the ones that hurt us the most."*

How would you feel if the ones you had worked so diligently to convince that they could have salvation, who witnessed miracles, rejected you and even blasphemed your name.....*"Wanted you dead!!"*

I think we see the picture of torment Jesus was enduring even before He reached the garden.

Where is Jesus going?

.....***where there was a garden***

We're all familiar with this Garden. We refer to it as the *Garden of Gethsemane*. Mark says the "Mount of Olives." John doesn't record Jesus' time in the Garden but we can read about it in the other Gospel accounts.

Matthew 26:36-46 (Slide 16)

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. (Slide 17) 38 Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me."

39 And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will." (Slide 18) 40 And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? 41 Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

(Slide 19) 42 He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done." 43 Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. (Slide 20) 44 And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more. 45 Then He came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? (Slide 21) Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son

of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!"

(Slide 22) **began to be grieved and distressed.**

That distress, that sorrow was with Him as He made His way walking through the valley and now what was to be is even closer.

38 Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me."

Jesus feels an extreme and emotional agony, extreme distress. I've heard it said that His emotional and psychological state is so deep that what He is feeling could kill Him.

*And I recognize as I see in my mind the agony in His face as He prays to the Father: **"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."** that I am complicit in what He is about to endure. In other words, my sin, caused this to happen!!*

And if I'm not careful in my life I can cause all of this agony for my Savior to be repeated:

Hebrews 6:4-6 (Slide 23)

4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, (Slide 24) 6 and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them

again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

That's why we're encouraged to stay in the light!! Stay in the Light!! There remaineth no more sacrifice for sin!!

In Mark's record of the Gospel He was still speaking when Judas and those He led to Jesus came. I believe He could hear them coming here!! How would you feel!!

And we will pick this up next week, "The Greatest Story Ever Told," Lord Willing!!

Invitation

(Slide 25) I take my dog Chocolate walking through our trails, which are carved out through the woods behind our park. They are very well kept and very pleasant to walk through. We see a lot of wildlife; squirrels, a variety of birds, possums, and often deer.

Since Chocolate has superhuman hearing and sense of smell, she often hears or smells something that she's unsure of and will immediately be on alert. She will position her body in front of me and turn sideways and stop and lean her weight against me.

She won't move or let me move until she's sure it's safe to go forward. God has built in this breed of dog a great sense of protective instinct.

I'm certain if there existed any type of real threat for us or our grandchildren she would spring into action. It's very reassuring to have that type of protection.

The greatest protection one can have is having been washed in the blood of Christ. It is the assurance of our salvation because of the death and the shedding of the blood of the Lamb on the cross.

Yet, you can only have that protection if you've been washed in His life giving blood through baptism. I encourage you today to be obedient to that command. It will bring you great comfort.

For those in Christ, His protection and cleansing is ongoing. If you need the prayers of your brethren for any reason, please let us know.

Please let us know how we can assist you this day.

Reading:

Psalm 41:9

***Even my close friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread,
Has lifted up his heel against me.***

Isaiah 53:7

***He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He did not open His mouth;
Like a lamb that is led to slaughter,
And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers,
So He did not open His mouth.***

Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

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