

Jesus is Arrested! (Slide 1)
Apostle Peter's Perspective!

Reading: John 18:11-27

(Slide 2) So, I put my sword back into my sheath as I watched Jesus just simply surrender Himself to the Roman soldiers. He was arrested like a criminal!!

"So the Roman cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him"

While I was perplexed and completely dumbfounded, those that were sent by the Jewish leadership had a satisfied look on their faces.

I didn't understand what was happening. I was simply trying to defend my Lord, yet was scolded for doing so. I truly had intentions of not allowing this to happen!

I even said as much:

(Slide 3) "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You." 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

While we were in Caesarea Philippi, he spoke of suffering at the hands of religious leaders at Jerusalem and how he would eventually be put to death but I just didn't make the connection.

I couldn't understand what He meant and wouldn't until sometime later. I was ready to fight, to prevent these people from doing such things.

"God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You."

Yet, He didn't seem pleased and He looked me in the eye and sternly stated;

“Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”

I know He wasn’t calling me Satan. Nevertheless, at the time I was really confused. It wasn’t until sometime later that I understood what He meant and what I did with my sword went against God’s plan!

For now though, I’m confused and anxious even fearful!

(Slide 4) When He was arrested we all ran!!

Mark 14:50

And they all left Him and fled.

*The Romans had little to do with our Jewish laws given by our God to Moses, yet, they mixed in any way. Their only mission in Jerusalem was to keep the peace and not allow any type of uproar that would reach the ears of Caesar. So they led Jesus, bound, to **Annas**.*

Annas was, you might say, President of the Sanhedrian. Still involved, yet, there could be only one High Priest at a time. That was **Caiaphas**.

Sometime back, **Caiaphas** made a remarkable statement about Jesus. While other priests and Pharisees were concerned about how Jesus was going to take away followers from them and that they would lose all they had gained in standing and even possibly fall as a nation, **Caiaphas** prophesied about Jesus.

It’s recorded in this way:

John 11:47-53 (Slide 5)

47 Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, “What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. 48 If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will

come and take away both our place and our nation.” (Slide 6) 49 But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all, 50 nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish.” (Slide 7) 51 Now he did not say this on his own initiative, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, 52 and not for the nation only, but in order that (Slide 8) He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. 53 So from that day on they planned together to kill Him.

Caiaphis, as High Priest, turned out to be a benefit for me to see what would happen to Jesus after His arrest.

You see I was following Jesus but was unable to get past the doorkeeper and I was afraid to try. I feared people would recognize me as having been with Jesus.

John knew the High Priest personally and spoke to the **slave-girl** who was given charge of who may enter. John convinced her to allow me entrance. Nevertheless, their conversation drew attention to me, which I greatly feared it would and she asked if I was a disciple of Jesus.

(Slide 9) I feared I would be in as much trouble as Jesus so I “denied” being one of His followers.

It was very cold at that time and I saw those who were enslaved and the officers warming themselves by a fire. I was cold and the warmth of the fire was very inviting so I stood by the very ones who were involved in Jesus' arrest.

Annas began to question Jesus about His followers and His ministry. I was surprised because He was among them often in the synagogue teaching and even explaining the meaning of scriptures.

I remember one time He read in the synagogue and what He read was prophesy about Him. I knew later that this wasn't coincidental.

Luke 3:16-21 (Slide 10)

16 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. 17 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written,

(Slide 11) **18 "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME,
BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR.
HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES,
AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND,
TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,**

19 TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

(Slide 12) **20 And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."**

*He taught publicly, He healed publicly. He was always available to all men and always transparent. This is why He answered **Annas** in this way:*

(Slide 13) **"I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret. 21 Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; they know what I said."**

I was appalled, heartbroken and shocked when the officer standing near Jesus struck Him very hard across His face.

Amazingly Jesus, feeling the blow in His body which nearly went to the ground, appeared to "shake off" the blow and boldly state:

(Slide 14) ***"If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?"***

Annas could not rebuke Jesus by expressing where He spoke things that were wrong, so he sent Him to **Caiaphas** still bound.

Witnessing all this caused the fear and uncertainty to rise within me! I was on edge!! I was simply afraid of what would happen to Him and what would happen to us!!

I was so cold, still warming myself at the fire when those around began to question me about my relationship with Jesus.

(Slide 15) ***"You are not also one of His disciples, are you?"*** I denied it again, ***"I am not."***

Looking back on this now, Jesus knew I would deny Him, not once, not twice, but three times! He even predicted it would happen and told me so:

John 13:38 (Slide 16)

Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.

I didn't recognize that I was living through that prophecy and became increasingly agitated and fearful. Even angry when a slave of the High Priest, who just happened to be related to Malchus whose ear I severed asked:

"Did I not see you in the garden with Him?"

(Slide 17) So angered, so fearful, so distraught I cursed at the person and fervently "denied" even knowing Jesus.....***and immediately a rooster crowed.***

Jesus heard my denial and likely all my denials and turned and looked at me.

Luke 22:61-62 (Slide 18)

61 The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times." 62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

(Slide 19) I was embarrassed. I was so ashamed and remorseful. I could not hold back my tears as I looked into the disappointed eyes of my Savior.

How can I ever hold my head up high again? How can I move forward?

Have you ever disappointed God and His Son? What I know now is that I can repent and He will forgive! He said to me one time:

Luke 22:31-32 (Slide 20)

31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; 32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

He knew I would repent and I've learned He forgives!

Invitation

God forgives. When we obey the Gospel and we make mistakes, God forgives. That doesn't give us a license to sin. Yet, when we sin, despite our best efforts, God forgives when we repent.

But we must be in Christ! Today is a special invitation. Hear the Gospel call and be baptized.

If you are in Christ but need the prayers of your Brethren, we are willing to do that for you today as well.

Please let us know how we can assist you.

Reading:

John 18:11-27

11 So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?"

12 So the Roman cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him, 13 and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. 14 Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was expedient for one man to die on behalf of the people.

15 Simon Peter was following Jesus, and so was another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, 16 but Peter was standing at the door outside. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter in. 17 Then the slave-girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." 18 Now the slaves and the officers were standing there, having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold and they were warming themselves; and Peter was also with them, standing and warming himself.

19 The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching. 20 Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret. 21 Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; they know what I said." 22 When He had said this, one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus, saying, "Is that the way You answer the high priest?" 23 Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?" 24 So Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

25 Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You are not also one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it, and said, "I am not." 26 One of the slaves of the high priest, being a relative of the one whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" 27 Peter then denied it again, and immediately a rooster crowed.

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