

Luke 22:47-71

Verses 47-53: And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him.

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

--(47-48) The betrayal of Christ is mentioned in all four gospels (Mt. 26:47-56; Mk. 14:43-50; Jn. 18:3-11), each giving unique details of the event.

--Having accepted the cup from His Father, Jesus wakes His disciples once more and tells them they are about to be betrayed. The mob arrives as He is still speaking (Mk. 14:43).

--All four gospel writers brand Judas as the betrayer. And he does so with a kiss, a show of affection, masking a heart of darkness. *How many Judas' have you ever met?*

Proverbs 22:1: A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold.

--(49-51) The disciples realize what is happening, and (Possibly spurred on by the authority and supernatural power Jesus displays in calling Himself the I Am (Jn. 18:6)?) they ask if they should respond with force.

--Peter, not waiting for Jesus' reply, no doubt thinking of himself as loyal to death and following the steps of all his OT heroes like Joshua, Samson, David, etc., tries to cut off poor Malchus' head. *It is John, writing years later, who names Peter and Malchus.*

--Jesus reproves Peter, and in characteristic divine grace, touches Malchus' ear and heals it. *So wild! Did Jesus have to pick the ear up and put it back on? Was the ear just hanging? Did Jesus just touch his head and heal him while leaving an extra ear on the ground?*

--Jesus healed Malchus, but He also healed Peter's mistake.

Morgan (The Gospel According To Luke, pg. 252): "Then Simon Peter drew his sword, in blundering zeal, but far finer than Judas' kiss. Nevertheless, it is always to me a suggestive thing, holding my soul in awe, that the last act of Divine surgery performed by the tender fingers of Jesus, was made necessary by the blundering zeal of a disciple. I think sometimes He has been busy ever since healing the wounds made by the blundering zeal of disciples."

--(52-53) I believe Jesus says this for those in the crowd who don't know what they are doing. They may only be following commands, but now He is challenging their personal involvement. Jesus loves His enemies!

--Even so, He does not lie to them. They have joined **the power of darkness**. Frightening reality!

If we are not for Jesus, then we are against Him!

--The dark powers of the world would have their **hour**, but that would only last from Jesus' surrender to the tomb. Their time was short. His reign is eternal.

Verses 54-62: Having arrested Him, they led Him and brought Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance. Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him."

But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him."

And after a little while another saw him and said, "You also are of them."

But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"

Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean."

But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!"

Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

--(54) The various accounts of Jesus' trials and Peter's denial are in all four gospels: **Mt. 26, Mk. 14, Jn. 18.**

--We are told that Jesus is first brought **into the high priest's house**. He ends up being brought before Annas and Caiaphas that night, making it most likely that this was a large home shared by the two men separated by a courtyard (Compare **Mt. 26:57-58 + Jn. 18:13-15+24**).

--To sum up the four gospel accounts, Jesus ends up at six "trials" all between 1am-7am on Friday morning.

--Three are before Jews: Annas (**Jn. 18:13**), Caiaphas (**Jn. 18:24**), the full Jewish council (**Mt. 26:57**).

--Three are before Gentiles: Pilate (**Jn. 18:28-31**), Herod (**Lk. 23:6-7**), Pilate (**Lk. 23:11**).

--**But Peter followed at a distance.** . . All the disciples had scattered in Gethsemane when Jesus was taken, but two followed the mob—Peter and John. John is the one who gains access to the high priest's house and gets Peter in as well (**Jn. 18:15-17**).

--Many use this phrase as one of Peter's first faults, but John was also with him, so I don't see it as a negative that they both followed Jesus some distance from the mob.

--His true faults before the denial were prideful self-confidence and a lack of prayer! Cowardice is what follows.

--It is important for us to see that followers of Jesus, people who truly love Him, can still make terrible mistakes and even fail in the places where they are the strongest. *Moses with his temper; David with his integrity; Peter with his boldness!*

1 Corinthians 10:12: *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*

--Are we humble? Do we think we are better than Moses, David, and Peter? Are we spiritually hungry and dependent?

--**(55-57)** Now we begin the infamous story of Peter's denial. The servant girl who confronts Peter first kept the door to the high priest's house. John had spoken to her to get Peter in the courtyard.

--**also.** . . likely means that they recognized John as one of Jesus' disciples.

--After this first denial, Peter moves to a porch area, and the first rooster crows **(Mk. 14:68)**.

How often does God give us a warning shot that we ignore?!

--**(58)** The same servant girl was pointing out Peter to others **(Mk. 14:69)**, and one of them says something to him which he again denies.

--**(59-60)** A bit later, others confront him again because his speech is clearly Galilean **(Mk. 14:70)**, and there was a relative of Malchus' who had been in Gethsemane and thought he recognized Peter **(Jn. 18:26)**.

--Peter's response is to curse and swear **(Mt. 26:74; Mk. 14:71)**. *It is always a bad sign when we have to go back to using the language we used before we knew Christ!*

--What do we see in all of this? Our true battles are spiritual, not physical! Peter's challenge is to live in the truth and be an unashamed witness. *Don't dig your hole deeper! Stop sin and repent where you are. Yes, no denial is better than any, but one denial would be better than three.*

--**(61-62)** Jesus is being sent from Annas to Caiaphas through the courtyard **(Jn. 18:24)** and turns and looks at Peter. *Maybe He is beaten and bruised from **(63-65)** as we are not sure of the timing of that incident.*

--The crow and the look have their proper effect on Peter.

--The crow awakened Peter to himself. He was shocked at the depth of his own sin, but Jesus was not. *Do we have the humility to admit that **Jer. 17:9** is still true of us?*

--The look awakened Peter to Jesus. There was a Person on the other side of that look, a knowing, loving, faithful Person.

--Peter went out and wept bitterly. Why did he weep? For love of Christ, the Person he had denied and grieved. How do we know? Because he kept following Jesus, and his repentance was both personal **(1 Cor. 15:5)** and public **(Jn. 21)**. ***22:32: *When you have returned to Me. . .****

--Judas was remorseful and went out and hung himself for love of self **(Mt. 27:3-5)**. Self-love cannot stand to see itself as sinful. *Beware of tears for personal reputation Vs. Tears for personal relationship!*

--Will our faith fail when we come to the test of the crow and the look?

Proverbs 24:16: For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity.

--Godly sorrow and conviction bring us back to Christ and His people. Prideful sorrow and condemnation drive us from Christ and isolate us from His people.

Verses 63-65: Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him. And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, "Prophecy! Who is the one who struck You?" And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him.

--The irony of this scene is impossible to miss. Jesus cannot be held by men. Jesus, who could have called down legions of angels, mocked and beaten? Jesus blindfolded?! Jesus, who had just had His prophecy regarding Peter fulfilled, challenged as a prophet.

--The mockers were fulfilling His very word!

Luke 18:31-33: Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.

--Jesus accepted this mockery and shame as us and for us. As us taking our sin. For us because so many down through the ages would follow Him through similar shameful and unjust treatment.

1 Peter 2:21-23: For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us and example, that you should follow His steps: "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

Verses 66-71: As soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together and led Him into their council, saying, "If You are the Christ, tell us."

But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will by no means believe. And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God."

Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?"

So He said to them, "You rightly say that I am."

And they said, "What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth."

--(66) The religious leaders gather the Sanhedrin together early in the morning (Mt. 27:1; Mk. 15:1) to give a semblance of legality to their witch hunt.

--(67a) False witnesses are brought against Him, but they cannot agree. Eventually, they ask Him directly if He is the Christ, or the Messiah.

--(67b-69) Jesus responds by pointing out the insincerity of their question. No matter what He says, they will not believe. No matter what He asks them, they will not answer truthfully. No matter what happens, they have no intention of letting Him go. The whole thing is a sham!

--**Hereafter.** . . Jesus reminds them that there is a *here* and a *hereafter* for all of us.

--Jesus also declares that the Son of Man will be sitting on the right hand of the next throne, and then He will be the One clothed in power.

--In a Jewish sense, Jesus is answering their question. Using the terms ***Son of Man + power of God***, He is basically saying: Combine **Ps. 110:1 & Dan. 7:13-14** and then you will know who I am.

--(70-71) They understood what Jesus was saying. To claim to be the Christ, the Messiah, was not blasphemy, because there were various ideas about who the Messiah would be. To claim to be the Son of God was to claim deity.

--Jesus answers them in the affirmative. What you say about Me is true.

--They claim blasphemy. They hate His message. They hate the idea of accountability to Him!

--People still hate Jesus' message. They hate that Jesus declares that we are all sinners, and we will stand before the throne of God as such hereafter if we do not believe that He is who He says He is. *Yes, our lives shouldn't be hinderance to our message, but Peter's hypocrisy did not invalidate Jesus' message—because ultimately it is Jesus' message about Himself!*

Matthew 16:16: Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

John 20:30-31: And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.