

J.J. and V.C.

ARRESTING GOD
Matthew 26:46-56

Matthew 26: 46 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

47 While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. 48 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” 49 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. 50 Jesus replied, “Do what you came for, friend.”

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. 51 With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

52 “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. 53 Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”

55 In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. 56 But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

INTRODUCTION

Show timeline: By Resurrection Sunday (April 4), we will now start the process of becoming one church with LINC; we will also need help next week in putting the chairs in Kuya Tony’s van.

Now, let’s go to the sermon by God’s grace. I titled it : Arresting God

How many people do you know or who has a friend named Peter or Pedro? How many people do you know who has a friend whose name is Joshua? How many people do you know whose name is John?

But do you know anyone who was named “Hudas” or “Judas” by their parents?

Today, by God’s grace, we’ll talk about the arrest of Jesus. Let’s get into it.

ARRESTING JESUS : Arrival, Altercation, Aim

I. THE ARRIVAL

Matthew 26: 46 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer! 47 While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. 48 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” 49 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

50 Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend."

- **Judas**

Background: We studied last week that Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane and He was asking the Father to "take this cup away from Him, not my will but His will". It means He already knows that He will be suffering in taking the full wrath of God on sin. At this point, He was now ready because He already knew He had to undergo pain and suffering.

Matthew 26: 45 Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners.

Illustration : Have you heard of the saying, "Things are going to get worse before it gets better." There are times in life that's going to be like that God will allow difficult times to happen even if you have prayed about it but it's there to accomplish God's purpose in the end.

That's why when the Psalmist wrote

Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil for you are with me.

Reason why we pass through the valleys. I shared before that one of the reason why the shepherd brings the sheep through the darkest valleys is because it's either, he is bringing them to greener pastures but in this case, he is bringing them home. In any case, the end point will always be good.

But He also allows it to show that He is there with us and we can always depend on Him and Him alone and that deepens our relationship with Him.

There is one thing that we are forgetting about the Lord which Oprah Winfrey does not accept.

Exodus 34:14 Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

And sometimes, God will strip us of everything to show great and good He is and how can He show how great and good He is, if we're depending on something else, someone else or if we're depending on ourselves.

Now in verse 46

46 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

And we know who He is talking about here.

47 While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived.

Let's talk about Judas quickly.

It's a very common name during the time of Jesus.

Etymology: Judas "ioudas" "He shall be praised" coming from Yehuda, or Yadah "praised"

That's a wonderful name.

His name was intended to give praise to God. Now it's connected with "traitor" "betrayer"

Illustration: One of the meanest things that a person can say to you is "Hudas ka!"

Remember, last month we talked about leaving a legacy and the greatest legacy we can leave is "love"

The question is when people hear our name, what is the first thing that comes into their mind?

one of the Twelve, arrived.

Matthew had to mention "one of the Twelve". It means He is part of the close circle of friends of Jesus Christ.

In fact, Judas is trusted by the group because of two things :

First, he is the only one in the Twelve that's from Judea (south), everyone else is from Galilee. (north)

His name is Judas Iscariot. Iscariot means "man from Kerioth" which is a town in Judea.

Significance: People in Judea (south) are considered, "culturally elite". They have a higher social status and very religious. In fact, the people from Judea think the people from Galilee views them as uneducated and culturally mixed."

Jesus Himself comes from Nazareth which is a part of the Galilean region.

In fact, Philip one of the disciples was introducing Jesus to Nathanael said,

John 1: 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

46 "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

Illustration: I remember one of the middle aged members of the church was telling the story who lives in a far-away province, that whenever she sees someone coming from Manila, she was really attracted and excited. She was so envious of the people who was riding the bus going to Manila. She said that she will wait for his father to arrive from that bus.

Second, because of this he was trusted by the group. In fact, he was even the treasurer of the group.

John 13:29 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor.

From the outside, Judas looks like a good disciple of Jesus Christ but inside there was darkness. We can surmise that even the other disciples think so because they never even had a hint that he was the one who's going to betray Jesus when Jesus said someone will betray Him.

Illustration: I remember when I was a young pastor, there was a businessman who was invited to our church and one of the members say, "I hope he becomes a member of the church because he's a businessman, he will be able to help the church and would be a good asset to the church."

Application: I was talking to my wife yesterday and I told her that people's judgement of others is shallow. Our Lord looks at what's inside the heart.

Let's continue : The temple guards and soldiers

With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people.

(We can also see this in the Gospel of Mark and Luke)

HOW LARGE IS THE CROWD? In the Gospel of John, it was a detachment of soldiers

John 18: 3 So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

Etymology: detachment; KJV "band" "speira" , it's a tenth part of a legion.

A legion of soldiers is around 4000 to 6000... a tenth of that is around 400 or 600

In this case, there were more than 400-600 people there who are legionaires sent to arrest Jesus.

Significance : Remember, legionnaires are the elite soldiers of the Roman army. They are like the Marines of the U.S. army.

Why?

Listen carefully : Remember, the Jews were under the Roman rule during that time and there were many rebellions happening. Even the disciples of Jesus like John and James were called Zealots (rebels who wants to overthrow Rome). Even Judas himself was said to have wanted Rome to be overthrown and that's the reason why he followed Jesus because all of his disciples thought that he was a political Messiah. That's what they thought the Messiah is all about, the one chosen to free them from oppression.

The only reason the Pharisees would be able to convince Pilate or the Romans to arrest Jesus and execute him is if the accuse him of the one bringing in a rebellion.

That's the reason why Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" (Luke 3:23)

That's why Jesus said in verse 55

55 In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me."

We'll talk about this more next week :

Let's continue and this is one of the most infamous part in the Bible and even history :
48 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him."

Why is this significant that our Lord was betrayed with a kiss?

That's the reason why in the account of Luke, Jesus asked Judas
Luke 22: 47 He approached Jesus to kiss him, 48 but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

For the Jews, a kiss is a symbol that you are happy to see someone and also a symbol of affection and deep love and friendship.

Biblical Illustration : Jonathan and David is known in the Bible about their deep friendship. Jonathan was trying to save David from his father Saul who wanted to kill David. Even if Jonathan was next in line (Saul was even mad at him for saving David), Jonathan saved him (1 Samuel 20:30-34). Now look at what happened, knowing for sure now that Saul is angry at David.

1 Samuel 20: 41 David got up from the south side of the stone and bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together—but David wept the most.

42 Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying, 'The Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.'"

That's the reason why to the Jews, a kiss is a symbol of respect and deep loyalty and friendship.

Look at what Judas did :

49 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

He was trying to feign (fake) respect to Jesus by greeting him as Rabbi. If you call someone your Rabbi, it means you are his follower and you respect that person.

BUT Judas sold him for thirty pieces of silver.

Matthew 26: 15 15 and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver.

- **30 pieces of silver is worth four months of labor during that time.**

Now here's the interesting part.

By law, 30 pieces of silver is how much you will pay for a slave

Exodus 21:32 If the bull gores a male or female slave, the owner must pay thirty shekels of silver to the master of the slave, and the bull is to be stoned to death.

You see this part?

Judas calls Jesus, "Rabbi" full of respect but what he really thinks of him is that He is nothing. He doesn't have any relationship with Jesus. He only saw Jesus as something to be used OR AS NOTHING.

Application : Isn't that how we treat the Lord sometimes, we give him a kiss pretending that he is our dearest friend and we respect Him as Lord and yet He is really nothing to us.

Example : That's how people treat our Lord, nothing, no relationship...They call Him Lord simply because He is something to be used..... We say, "Lord heal me...or heal my loved one." Or "Lord bless me..." "Or Lord, give me the job" And when God doesn't give us what we pray for, we treat Him as nothing...useless. Or we're willing to exchange Him for thirty pieces of silver.

Illustration: There was this one person who once told me, "Pastor, please pray that I will get this job. If I get this job,, then I don't have to work on Sundays and then I can attend church." We prayed for it and I prayed for it and he got the job... but afterwards, I've never seen this person's shadow in the church.

And this is the painful part...look at how Jesus replied.

50 Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend."

Etymology: Friend "hetairos" comrade, partner, good friend

Why did Jesus call him friend even after he already betrayed Him?

In the end, our Lord was still reaching out to him.

We have to remember, our Lord in John 13 washed the disciples feet even Judas' as an act of love.

John 13:1 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

He was saying to Judas, even though you did this to me, I still love you and I'm still READY AND open to forgive you.

And that's the love of the Lord.

Even if we have failed Him, even if we have betrayed Him, His door is always going to be open for repentance and forgiveness.

Application: That's why people do not go to hell because of what they did. People go to hell because of who they rejected – they rejected the offer of forgiveness of God through our Lord Jesus Christ who already paid for our sins on the cross.

Now the problem with Judas, he was remorseful but not repentant.

Matthew 27: 3 When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. 4 "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility."

Etymology : remorse; repentance "metamelomai" sorrowful about what he did. But he did not repent.

Etymology : repent "metanoia" a change of mind.

In short, he felt sorry he did it to Jesus and only considered him still as an ordinary man "innocent blood"...

Note : Any person can feel that if they wronged another man, specially if that man is innocent.

But repentance "metanoia" is a change of mind.

Judas only called Jesus "Rabbi" a teacher but never really looked at Him as God...He only thinks he betrayed "blood" man but I'm sure it would be different if he realizes that he betrayed God Himself.

Illustration : But the thief on the cross was repentant, He had a change of mind on who Jesus is. Remember both of these two men were insulting Jesus.

Matthew 27:44 In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

Mark 15: 32 Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

And yet look at the change of mind "repentance" on one of those rebels.

Luke 23: 39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

*40 But the other criminal rebuked him. “**Don’t you fear God,**” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”*

*42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into **your kingdom.**”*

43 Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

True repentance shows we are sorrowful because we sinned against God because all sin is an offense against God.

Application: That’s why people do not go to hell because of what they did. People go to hell because they rejected who Jesus is and – they rejected the offer of forgiveness of God through our Lord Jesus Christ who already paid for our sins on the cross.

This man Judas did not do that. In fact, instead of looking for forgiveness and mercy, he hanged himself.

Matthew 27: 5 So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

In fact, he might have been in a hurry to hang himself that he used a weak rope and this is what happened.

In Acts 1: 18 (With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out.

That’s why always remember, our Lord is open to forgive we if we realize that we have sinned against Him.

Next week, **we’ll continue with the altercation and how Jesus could have ended this right there and then and why he did not because of the aim of His suffering.**

S.G.D.

iii...aim.

Show in Scripture (old testament prophecy)

Psalms 41:9 Jesus called him friend