

J.J. and V.C.

**ARRESTING GOD Part 2
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

Next week, is the start of our merger by God’s grace with LINC. I heard that the worship music team had a wonderful meet-up yesterday.

This Friday is Good Friday, where we remember, the suffering and crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(show video of people reenacting the crucifixion and falling down)

Funny as it seems, some people say they are doing it some sort of “penance” for their sins.

“Penance” - voluntary self-punishment inflicted as an outward expression of repentance for having done wrong.

Etymology : Latin “paenitentia” – meaning repentance from the word “paenitere” be sorry

Illustration: When I was a kid, I really thought of it that way. When I did something bad, I would get a hanger and beat my own back until I feel the pain just to be sorry for my sins.

You might not use a hanger, but a lot of you beat yourself up for something that you did years ago and still feeling sorry about it when you have already asked for forgiveness from God about that sin.

We have to remember that 2000 years ago, it was our Lord Jesus Christ who was beaten up, flogged, and crucified on the cross in order to pay for our sins.

That's why in 1 John 1:19

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The reason why the Bible say, “he is faithful and just”, it means, whenever you confess “homologeo” (means “homo” same “logos” word), it means to agree with God that we have sinned against Him, He is *faithful* to remember that our Lord Jesus Christ has already paid the penalty for our sin and it is but right or *“just”* for Him to forgive us because His Son was the One who already died for our sin.

That's why I strongly believe that “Good Friday” should be like “Remembrance Day”.

Remembrance Day is a day we remember the soldiers who died in World War 2 so we can enjoy the freedom we have right now.

Good Friday should be a day that we remember our Lord Jesus Christ who already did the “penance” for our sin.

Last week we started talking about the arrest of Jesus

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.”

We talked about Judas, whose name means, “He shall be praised” but because He did not repent,- he felt “remorseful” metanoia, (*Matthew 27:3*) meaning feeling sorry, an emotional thing but he wasn't “repentant” metanoia” meaning, he didn't change his mind to who Jesus was, his name became one of the most notorious names in history. You wouldn't name your son a Judas. Maybe you can name your pet, “Judas” but not a human being.

Story : I remember there was a thief who was trying to break a window and then he heard a voice saying, “Jesus is watching”. He got startled but tried again and heard the voice again, “Jesus is watching”. So he used his flashlight, and saw it was just a parrot saying, “Jesus is watching.” So he broke in and the parrot said again, “Jesus is watching.” And then he looked at the bird cage and he saw that the name of the bird was “Judas”... So the thief talked to the parrot and said to him, “You're not Jesus. You're Judas.” Then the parrot replied, “Yes, my name is Judas but the pitbull behind you right now, that's Jesus.”

Judas could have changed his legacy if he repented.

Application : The same with us, when we sin against others or against God, your legacy isn't changed by being "remorseful" meaning to feel sorry but by repenting, "It's a change of mind." And a change of mind starts with a decision, "Lord, I know I sinned against others and against you, I'm making a decision right now, not to do it again." And that's when the Holy Spirit helps you to live a godly life.

We also showed last week, that there were around 400-600 "speiras" 10th of a legion". temple guards and elite Roman soldiers that "arrived" to arrest Jesus. (John 18:3) I explained to you last week why that is – it's because they were made to believe that Jesus is starting a rebellion and there might be a riot when they arrest Him.

In the end, Jesus reached out Judas for one last time by calling him "friend" (hetairois) which means comrade or friend. An outreach of love even if Judas betrayed him.

Important : If we read the Bible, it is dripping with grace. The last example I mentioned is about Judas, even if he betrayed our Lord, our Lord still called him "friend".

For the sake of the story, let's call Jesus calling Judas "friend" even though he betrayed him as **Grace Drip #1**

The next few verses, I will show you through the altercation how our Lord showed grace through it all.

II. ALTERCATION

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?

We have to remember that these 400-600 men were arresting GOD HIMSELF.

Look at this account by the Gospel of John

John 18: 4 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

5 "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) 6 When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

Etymology : KJV "backward" eis ho opiso into the back
Fell "pitos" from ascending to descending

Note : This couldn't have happened if there was no outside force pushed them.

Illustration: I remember when I was in Grade 6. Before we enter the classroom, we have to fall in line from shortest to tallest. We were about 40 students in the class. I was always the one to be the first in line but this time there was someone shorter than me and so I was second. I was wearing a jacket and both my hands were in the side pocket of the jacket. The first person in line somehow moved and I got off balanced and so I "fell backward" and the next thing I was all my classmates were on the ground like a dominoes.

But remember, these were 400-600 SOLDIERS! Men whose first instinct is to stand in balance and be ready to fight. The only way that all of them could have "fallen backwards" is because of a supernatural force.

In this case, it is when Jesus said, "***I am He.***", meaning that He is God.

The only way that they could have arrested Jesus who is God is if He allowed Himself to be arrested.

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.

We will see this account in all of the Gospels.

We all know that servant's name was Malchus and the one who struck him was Peter.
John 18:10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

Interesting Side note: I'm sure Peter wasn't going for his ear but it just showed the heart of Peter, that even if he wasn't trained to be a soldier (he's a fisherman!), he still tried to defend Jesus.

The only thing here also, it's almost like Peter chose a non-soldier to attack.

Here's Grace Drip #2

Even if Malchus was only a slave and he was part of the contingent who was trying to arrest Jesus, look at what our Lord did.

*Luke 22: 50 And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. 51 But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" **And he touched the man's ear and healed him.***

And that is what grace is all about.

Remember, **mercy is not giving someone what they deserve but grace is giving someone what they don't deserve.**

Malchus did not deserve to be healed. First, he's a slave and second, he's part of the contingent that wanted to arrest Jesus Christ and yet the Lord healed him.

Illustration: A misunderstanding arose between them that made it to the newspapers and was headed toward even bigger things. They both had large churches, and in those early days they were close friends. Spurgeon had a fiery temper and personality to match, while Parker was quiet; tending to be more meek and mild-mannered.

One day, Parker made a comment about the terribly poor condition of the children being admitted to Spurgeon's orphanage.

It is well recorded that Spurgeon gave away most of the money that he ever made to these orphanages. And so on this day Parker said to some members of his church that, "We ought to help Spurgeon with his orphanage, for there are times when the boys don't have proper clothes, and I am sure they could use some food."

However, one of the men standing there, twisted the truth, and reported to Spurgeon, that Parker had in fact, criticized the orphanage itself; telling Spurgeon that "Joseph Parker says the boys in your orphanage don't have enough clothes to wear or sufficient food to eat." Spurgeon was incensed. For him, this was a stab in the back by a friend. So Spurgeon retaliated and blasted Parker and his alleged statement FROM THE PULPIT on the following week.

Now you have got to understand that in every church service which Spurgeon held in those days, two newspaper reporters were always there, – faithfully transcribing the sermon to be printed in the next newspaper going out.

So Spurgeon's attack against Parker was immediately printed in the newspapers, and further, a newspaper reporter ran over to Parker's home and asked him whether he would reply to Spurgeon's attack the following Sunday. Parker thought for a moment and then replied. "Yes, I will respond to him next Sunday."

As expected, the town began to go wild with bets and arguments among non-church folks. People, religious and not, talked and speculated back and forth about it all that week. Hundreds of people thronged to Parker's church the next Sunday and you could feel the high tension at the church service. Every other thing done was like dragging as everyone waited with high expectations. When time came for Parker to speak, a hush fell on the crowd so much that one could hear a pin drop.

The pastor, in his characteristic manner, slowly got up and went to the pulpit, quietly cleared his throat and said, "Brother Spurgeon is sick today and cannot preach. This is the day when he takes up an offering for his orphans. May I suggest that we take up that offering for him in our church, for he's doing a great work, and I know all of us would like to have a part in it."

The crowd was delighted. Parker's compassion stirred such a response that the deacons had to empty the offering plates three times. They bagged the money and took it over to Spurgeon after the service, commenting, "This is a gift from Joseph Parker. He really promoted your program in church today."

Spurgeon was transfixed by Parker's generosity so deeply that on Tuesday morning there was a knock at Parker's study which turned out to be Spurgeon. He threw his arms around his "rival," saying,

“You have more of the spirit of Jesus Christ than any man I know. You know, Parker, you have practiced grace on me. You have given me not what I DESERVED, you have given me what I NEEDED.”

We always talk about being Christ-like...let's not give people what they deserve...let's give people what they need....GRACE!

Grace Drip #3

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?”

We have to remember Grace and Mercy is like the right arm and the left arm of a Christian. Again, grace is giving someone what they don't deserve and mercy is not giving someone what they don't deserve.

Quote : Grace is manifested not only on what He gives but also on what He withholds.

What do we mean by this?

How many times has mankind sinned against God? How many times have we offended God? He could come at any time and pronounce judgement.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

By God's grace, let me show it to you.

We have to remember, **there were 400-600 highly trained soldiers who were sent to arrest Jesus Christ and only twelve of them.**

But compared to the power of Jesus Christ – that's nothing!

First, just by His Word, all of them fell backwards.

Second, at the disposal of Jesus Christ was an army of angels. He can call twelve legions.

Do you also know that God assigns warrior angels to protect us?

Biblical Illustration: Remember the story of Elisha and his servant? King Aram was so mad because it looks like the Israelites knew always what their next move was all about. So he asked his men, how do they know our next move and the men told them that it's because of Elisha the prophet tells the King of Israel

2 Kings 6: 12 “None of us, my lord the king,” said one of his officers, “but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom.”

So what happened is the king of Aram sent an army with horses and chariots to surround the city where Elisha and his servants were. The servant of Elisha woke up the following

day and saw that an army was surrounding them and he became scared. What did Elisha say to the servant?

16 "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

Then God opened the servant's eyes and surrounding them were full of horses and chariots of fire.

True Story : this was from J. John a preacher about David Livingstone

David grew up, went to medical school, and became a doctor. He then went to Africa as a medical missionary and labored tirelessly.

There was one particular tribe they were trying to reach, and it was very difficult. The chief sent him a message saying, "We are going to come tonight, and we are going to murder you and everyone in your compound."

Now, the reason we know every detail of this story is that I've researched it. David Livingstone kept diaries, and all of this is written in them. In his diary, he wrote, "Lord, we've labored so faithfully. Please, please protect us. Please help us." He was fearful of what might happen, concerned that their ministry would be obliterated and everyone would die. But they didn't kill them. A couple of years later, they eventually introduced the chief of the tribe to Jesus, and the entire community converted and followed Him.

David Livingstone later said to the chief, "You sent me a message that you were going to come and kill me and everyone in the compound." The chief replied, "Yes, we came." David asked, "Why did you not kill us?"

The chief said, "When we came to the compound, we saw 39 giants surrounding the compound. We counted them — they were big warriors, and there were 39 of them surrounding the compound."

A couple of years later, David Livingstone returned to his sending church in Scotland and told that story. At the end of the meeting, the church secretary approached him and said, "Doctor Livingstone, do you remember the date when the chief was going to come and kill you?"

He replied, "Of course I know the date." She gave him the date. The secretary of the church opened the church diary and showed him that on that date, there were 39 people in the church in Scotland praying for him — and there were 39 warriors surrounding the compound.

There are angels that God sends to protect us. NOW THE LORD OF HOST WHO IS JESUS CHRIST, AT HIS DISPOSAL ARE LEGIONS AND LEGIONS OF ANGELS. In fact, He can call more than *12 legions*... (note : the Bible talks about angels as many as the stars in the heavens Revelation 12:4)

Now, I did the math by God's grace concerning these 12 legions. One legion is equal to six thousand angelic soldiers.

So $12 \times 6000 =$, that's 72,000 warrior angels. Now in the Old Testament, in 2 Kings, God has protected Israel through the prophet Isaiah by sending an angel to kill their enemy – the Assyrians.

Look at WHAT one angel can do?

2 Kings 19: 35 That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies!

So if 1 angel can kill 185,000 people. I'm sure that angel can do more but for the sake of computation if 1 angel can kill 185,000, how many people can 72,000 warrior angels can kill? 13,320,000,000. (13Billion, 320 Million)

What's the current population of the world right now? 8.3 billion.

In short, our Lord could have wiped out the entire population of the earth and he could very well could and is justified if He did that. It's because we dared sinned against a HOLY, HOLY, HOLY GOD and we deserve death and eternal damnation and yet what did our Father do? Sent His own Son Jesus Christ and our Lord obeyed to die on the cross for us!

Instead of giving us what we deserve, in this case death...He gave us what we don't deserve – ETERNAL LIFE with Him. At what cost? The death of His own Son!

THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL DRIPPING WITH GRACE!

Which brings us to the third act of ARRESTING GOD.

III. **AIM – Why did God allow all of these things?**

54 But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

Note : All of these were written “prophesied” even before it happened. Judas' betrayal
Psalm 41:9 "Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me". (NKJV)

This means turned against me. But if we take this literally, it means once Jesus was arrested, Judas participated in kicking Him while He was on the ground.

In the Philippines, it means Judas participated in a “kuyog”...mob beating

Zechariah 11: 12 I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.

13 And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—the handsome price at which they valued me!

There are so many prophecies in the Old Testament about the suffering of Jesus Christ on the cross and one of the most popular **ones is Isaiah 53**, that even some Jews can't deny it, which we will study this Good Friday Bible study.

But what Jesus is saying is that, ALL OF THESE ARE HAPPENING IN ORDER TO FULFILL GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION!

Note : That's what the Scriptures is all about...it reveals God's will and God's plan!

That's why in Isaiah 14 it says:

*Isaiah 14:24 The Lord Almighty has sworn,
"Surely, as I have planned, so it will be,
and as I have purposed, so it will happen.*

Application: You have to remember, our Lord has the power to stop this right there and then just by His Word but He allowed Himself to be arrested and then suffer and take the full wrath of God on the cross because it was the Father's plan to save us.

The same thing, if you are undergoing suffering right now, we can trust it is part of God's plan in our life if He allowed it. He has a higher purpose for all the things that are happening to you right now. All we need to do is trust and obey Him just like our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now yesterday, during our BBB with my wife and daughter, we were talking about God's plan. I asked them, **when we are undergoing problems or sufferings in our life, there are two things we should be trusting aside from God's Word.** And I told them that I will reveal it today.

Let's continue with the study :

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.

In short, Jesus was saying, you had the chance to arrest me, you have heard my teaching, you know I'm not trying to lead a rebellion but you did not arrest me and cannot arrest me during that time... **Why? It's because it's not yet the time for them to get Him.**

You will see that in the Gospel of John when He recorded :

John 8:20 He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.

That's why after praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, He knew this is now the time He needs to suffer for the sins of mankind.

You will see that in several passages

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.

Mark 14: 41 “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners.

And then in Luke, it is recorded :

Luke 22: 52... “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? 53 Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

IN SHORT, our Lord Jesus Christ is trusting and following God’s schedule. There are things that God will allow and will not allow but all of this, **even our suffering is part of God’s plan and schedule.**

LISTEN CAREFULLY: I said earlier, that’s why, there are two things that we NEED to trust when we are undergoing trials and sufferings...**FIRST WE NEED TO TRUST IN GOD’S WORD...** that everything is part of God’s plan even if we don’t understand it...**SECOND WE NEED TO TRUST IN GOD’S SCHEDULE/TIMING IN THE FULFILLMENT OF HIS WORD.**

That’s why the Word of God said in Jeremiah

*Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope **and a future**”.*

That’s the reason why it is written in Isaiah

Isaiah 60:22 At the right time,I, the Lord, will make it happen.

IMPORTANT Application: That’s why when you are undergoing trials and suffering and problems...it is because we are following God’s schedule...even the answer to your prayers – NAKA-SCHEDULE NA YAN! It’s already in GOD’S CALENDAR.

And during this time, the Lord is asking us to trust Him as He says :

Psalm 46:10 He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth.”

And that’s the aim of the Lord, we need to trust in His timing. As Ecclesiastes has written
Ecclesiastes 3: 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time.

Why can we trust it’s on schedule?

And that's the story of the Resurrection.

Remember Jesus Christ said

56 But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Our Lord was entering His darkest hour but He also knew the plan of the Lord in His Word.

*Psalm 16:9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.*

*10 For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.*

And you will see also this in Isaiah 53,, remember I mentioned it earlier that it perfectly prophesied the suffering of Jesus Christ but look at this

*Isaiah 53: Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.*

Yes, the Lord has to suffer and take on the full wrath of God but He also knows that His death is not the end because He will rise again from the dead.

Let me end with this story that I've told you several times:

One time, my family and I were undergoing severe trial while we were in the Philippines. I was complaining to my best friend and giving him a litany of all my problems. He was just intently listening and after many words of telling him all of my problems, he just said this to me, "Jerry, it's only Friday." I got confused because it wasn't Friday but then he said, "Jerry, it's only Friday, Sunday is coming." Now I knew what my best friend meant. Our Lord Jesus Christ got arrested, suffered, flogged, insulted, beaten, punched, beard pulled, crucified on the cross, mocked and died on Friday. But after three days, He rose on that beautiful Sunday morning.

And that's the reason we never lose hope because God can turn something desperate, dreadful into something beautiful... something that has died to become alive again!

It's only Friday. God's Sunday in your life is coming. TRUST IN HIS WORD AND HIS TIMING!

S.G.D.