

The Life of Christ – Part 10

Well, today on It's a Good Life, we continue our study in the life of Christ. This will be lesson number 10, the arrest of Christ. This first part of this, if I would give it a name, I would have to give it the name the kiss of love from a heart of hate. Following Christ's agony in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus knew that the hour was at hand, according to Matthew 26:45, and that He must soon drink from the terrible cup which the Father had given Him to drink, according to John 18:11.

But I want you to notice a few things about Jesus as He was in the garden, and we've already talked about the agony of Christ, but notice in John 18:3, it says, *Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees.*

The word "band" in this verse is a military term which refers to a Roman cohort, which at full strength consisted of one-tenth of a legion. A legion was made up of six thousand soldiers, and then we would see that a cohort then at full strength would be about six hundred soldiers. They would equal six hundred, but whether there were actually six hundred Roman soldiers present in the garden, we can't be sure, but certainly there was a great number.

In addition to the Roman soldiers, there were also Jewish leaders with their officers, according to John 18:3, which we've already read here, but this would be the temple police. So we see that not only were Roman soldiers present, about six hundred, but there was also represented there temple police. The combined power of the Jews and Romans was brought against one unarmed man, according to the scriptures.

Then we see that the children of darkness carried their lanterns and torches so that they

might seize the Light of the World. In John 8:12, it says, *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

So we see that not only were Roman soldiers involved in this and the temple police, but there were also people following along. Now, I know that on our roads and highways that if there's an accident or something taking place, we call it what, rubbernecking as people stop to watch or they drive slowly to see what's going on with an accident that has taken place on the road. Well, I believe this is somewhat what was taking place here as the kiss of love from a heart of hate was about to take place. And these people saw the Roman soldiers and they saw the temple police, and so therefore I believe that, naturally, the crowd built as these people marched along. They wanted to see. "Hey, what's happening here? What's going on? We want to see what's happening. Let's follow and let's see where all these people are headed."

So in other words, as these people went to the garden to arrest Christ, they picked up people along the way who just simply wanted to come along for the ride to see what was going on. But when Judas appears in the garden with all of those who were with him, the Lord was not taken by surprise. Some people think the Lord was caught off guard here. No, He wasn't.

In Mark 14:43, it says, *And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.*

John 18:3 once again says, *Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the*

chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.

And then we read in Matthew 26:21-25, ***21And as they did eat, he said, Verily... Now, this is at the Lord's table, the Lord's supper... he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. 22And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? 23And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. 24The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born. 25Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said.***

And then in Matthew 26:46, it says, ***Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.***

John 18:4 says, *Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, **Whom seek ye?***

So Jesus was not taken by surprise as these individuals came to arrest Him. They came to take Him away. He was not surprised or taken by surprise as Judas approached Him. Judas had previously made arrangements with the enemies of Christ and given them a clear sign by which they could easily identify the one they should arrest. Of course, you know the narrative here, in Mark 14:44, that he would let them know by a kiss.

It says there, *And he that betrayed him had given them a token, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he; take him, and lead him away safely.* Now, the word "kiss" here comes from a Jewish verb *phileo*, which also means to love, to show affection towards a friend or a loved one. The noun *philos* means

friend. Judas performed this most horrible deed under the guise of friendship and loving affection. The word "kiss" as it is used in Mark 14:45 and Matthew 26:49 actually indicates that Judas kissed Jesus fervently, a kiss that was prolonged with a show of affection.

And notice what the Lord said to Judas in Luke 22:48. *But Jesus said unto him, **Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?***

Jesus knew what was going to happen, but the point here is that Judas held onto Christ as he would hold onto someone that he really loved, but he was a liar. He was a thief, the Bible says, from the beginning. Christ knew him and before we say too much against Judas, let us search our own hearts. Do I really love the Lord Jesus, or am I a phony pretender? Is my affection for Christ sincere? Do I kiss the Lord on Sunday while in church and then betray Him the rest of the week by the way I live and the things I do? Do I really belong with the disciples of Christ, or do I belong with the enemies of Christ?

We need to search our own hearts and we need to ask ourselves that question: Am I a pretender? Do I know Jesus as my Savior? Judas was a pretender. He was not saved. And my question goes to you today, have you asked Jesus into your heart? You need to search your heart, and if you haven't asked Him to come in, "Lord Jesus, come into my heart," you need to do that this very day.

Not only do we see the kiss of love from a heart of hate, and that kiss of love came from Judas and he had a heart of hate, but we also see the Captive who was in complete command. We've already said that this did not take Jesus by surprise.

Notice after the identification what happened here after Judas kissed Him. When the Lord

identified Himself as, "I am," the soldiers, the Jews, and Judas fell to the ground.

John 18:4-6 says, ⁴*Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, **Whom seek ye?*** ⁵*They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.* ⁶*As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.*

I don't know about you, but if I had been in that group and that had happened, I would know that there's something going on here. As a reader of the Old Testament, these people should have known if they were actually in the scriptures and actually read the Old Testament they would understand that Jesus was saying, "I Am God. I Am. I Am the one who is the Creator. I Am all in all." To prove that, when He said that, they all went backwards. They all fell to the ground.

Notice something. The Son of God was in complete command of the situation. Once again, He was not taken by surprise. After the Lord identified Himself, He allowed the mob to take Him away, according to John 18:12. It says, *Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him.* Jesus willingly and voluntarily let them take Him. Without His permission, it would have been impossible for them to take Him.

John 7:30 says, *Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.* This is before this happened now. The Bible tells us that there were times when people wanted to take Jesus but they couldn't because it was not time yet. And we need to understand that Jesus willingly and voluntarily at this time let them take Him because His hour had come.

Mark 14: 41 says, *And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them...* This is to His disciples... *Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.* And He said this just before the band came to take Him.

Now, there's a prayer that Jesus never prayed. Peter rushed to the Lord's rescue with great zeal and poor aim, according to John 18:10. *Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.* But Jesus' response to Peter's rescue attempt? Jesus healed the ear of Malchus.

Many things can be said of this arrest that took place, and Jesus did not pray to be rescued because He said, "The cup which My Father hath given Me shall I not drink it?" Jesus was ready to be offered.

And we read on in the scriptures how that the Lord was forsaken by those. He predicted that all people would forsake Him at this point. All of His disciples would be afraid and they would run. And this, once again, is a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, as well. Zechariah 13:7 talks about that.

Do you know Christ today as your Savior? Ask Him to come into your heart. "Lord Jesus, come into my heart. I receive You as my Lord and Savior." And if you do know Him as your Savior, are you living for Him? If not, the Bible says, if we confess our sin, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Live for Him today. Let Jesus be the King of your heart.

It's been good being with you today and next week we'll continue our study and we'll look at lesson number 11, the trials of Christ. And we're studying, of course, the life of Christ.

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