

MIRACLES OF JESUS

THE ARREST OF JESUS - Luke 22:39-53

A. Context

1. It was the week of Jesus' crucifixion.
2. Jesus made a triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
3. He cleansed the temple.
4. He instituted the Lord's Supper.
5. In the upcoming text, Jesus prayed on the Mount of Olives and performed His last miracle before His crucifixion.

B. Jesus' preparation for arrest (39-46)

1. Jesus took His disciples to the Mount of Olives to pray (39-40), *And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. 40 And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."*
 - a. It was Jesus custom to pray at night on the Mount of Olives, Luke 21:37, *And every day he was teaching in the temple, but at night he went out and lodged on the mount called Olivet.*
 - b. This night, His disciples followed Him and Jesus gave them instruction that they pray so they would not enter into temptation.
 - 1) It is temptation to sin.
 - 2) 1 Peter 5:8,9, *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*
 - 3) 1 Corinthians 10:13, *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*
2. Jesus prayed by Himself to the Father (41-42), *And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."*
 - a. Jesus prayed by Himself, a short distance away.
 - b. Jesus requested that His heavenly Father remove *this cup*, the symbol of His sufferings to come because of God's judgment on our sin. 1 Peter 2:24, *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*
 - c. Most of all, He chose to be submissive to His Father's will, despite the cup.
 - 1) We must always submit our preferences to God's will.
 - 2) Marshall, *He does not seek to disobey the will of God, but longs that God's will might be different. But even this is to be regarded as temptation, and it is overcome by Jesus.*
3. An angel appeared and strengthened Jesus while He was in agonizing prayer (43-44), *And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. 44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*
 - a. Jesus' humanity is evident in the preceding verses but He still submitted to the will of God.
 - b. Do the angels appear to Jesus because of His deity or because of the supernatural strength in prayer, or both?
 - 1) Although, Jesus was still in agony, He prayed more intensely.
 - 2) Darrell Bock, *God does not always spare us trials, but He provides strength to face them.*
 - c. Jesus' sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground.
 - 1) Ideas concerning this turmoil of Jesus
 - a) Walter Liefeld, *Perhaps it was so profuse that it resembled blood flowing from a wound.*
 - b) Thomas Constable, *Probably Luke made a connection with blood because Jesus' sweat was the result of His great sufferings.*
 - 2) Certainly, Jesus was sweating profusely as a result of His suffering in anticipation of the cross, physical and spiritual death.

4. Jesus went to the disciples who were sleeping and reminded them to pray that they may not enter into temptation (45-46), ***And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, 46 and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”***
 - a. Jesus arose from prayer and found the disciples asleep.
 - 1) Luke explains that they slept from sorrow.
 - 2) It may be understood to mean *worn out by grief*.
 - 3) The sorrow or grief is due to the prospect of Jesus’ coming death.
 - b. He asked them why were they sleeping when they should be in prayer.
 - 1) They needed to pray so they would not fall into temptation.
 - 2) Thomas Constable, *Spiritual preparation before testing has more effect than just calling for rescue when we are in it*.
 - 3) Jesus was facing unbelievable suffering but that did not keep Him from showing concern for the needs of the disciples who would be scattered like sheep without a shepherd.

C. Judas’ arrest (47-53)

1. Betrayal by Judas (47-48), ***While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, 48 but Jesus said to him, “Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?”***
 - a. A crowd came to Jesus while He was still speaking to His disciples.
 - b. Judas who was one of the twelve was leading the crowd directly to Jesus.
 - c. He started to identify Jesus with a kiss when Jesus declared that Judas was there to betray Him.
 - 1) Judas’ hypocrisy was evident since a kiss was a sign of friendship not betrayal.
 - 2) Judas came to betray, Jesus, the divine ruler sent by God whose power was unleashed for a moment in the parallel passage, John 18:3-6, *So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. 4 Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” 5 They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. 6 When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.*
2. Violence erupted (49-50), ***And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” 50 And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.***
 - a. The disciples asked Jesus what they should do.
 - 1) Should they strike with the sword to protect Him?
 - 2) Peter, identified in John 18:10, did not wait for Jesus’ response but took a sword and cut off the ear of Malchus, the representative of the High Priest.
 - b. They had been sleeping instead of praying so they were caught off guard.
 - c. William Taylor, *Christianity saves men, not by the spilling of their blood but by the shedding of its own...never think of spreading the Gospel by the sword*.
3. Jesus responded with compassion (51), ***But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him.***
 - a. He commanded that the violence stop.
 - 1) It was not the appropriate time nor the appropriate place, John 18:36, *My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”*
 - 2) Philippians 2:10, *so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*
 - b. He restored the ear of Malchus.
 - 1) Some points concerning this miracle
 - a) There was no request for the healing of Malchus’ ear.
 - b) His compassion was so great that it included those who came to kill him.
 - c) The miracle was performed to correct a mistake by Peter.

- d) Thomas Constable, *Jesus did not rely on the sword nor did He base His kingdom on the use of physical force.*
 - e) The crowd did not seem to be impressed by this miracle or maybe they did not see what had happened. They were not impressed by the impact on the soldiers when Jesus said, *I am.*
- 2) Peter would later be identified as one of Jesus' followers by a relative of Malchus but Peter denied that he knew the Lord.
4. Jesus spoke to the crowd (52-53)
- a. He asked why they thought they had to take Him force (52), ***Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs?"***
 - 1) They were leaders of the Jews, religious (chief priests), military (officers of the temple) and political (elders).
 - 2) He asked if they were coming for a robber with swords and clubs.
 - 3) They expected a fight which Jesus would not provide them.
 - b. He declared that they could have taken Him any day He was at the temple (53), ***When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."***
 - 1) Jesus had not been hiding from them.
 - 2) They were afraid to take Him in public for fear of the people, Luke 22:2, *And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people.*
 - 3) Their evil deed took place in the dark because it was their hour and that of the power of darkness (the authority of Satan that God gave him for that time).
 - 4) It was their hour but it would be Jesus' hour a short time later.

<i>CONCLUSION</i>

- A. We need to pray much more than we realize because temptation will come.
- B. Jesus always has compassion for us and time to minister to us even when we struggle against Him.
- C. His kingdom is spiritual but one day it will be established on earth as it is in heaven.