

FACING THE FORCES OF DARKNESS Luke 22:47-53

Jesus is on His way to the cross.

SUFFERING OF THE SON OF MAN 19:28-23:56

JESUS' ARREST AND CONVICTION 22:47-23:25

In the final incidents presented in the story,
we see the extent of the depravity of people
and their rejection of the Savior,
the failure of His followers,
and the continuing evidence of His grace.

In spite of the illegal, violent and diabolic factors involved in His arrest,
Jesus demonstrates His ability to control these events.

At the same time He demonstrates He's submitting to them voluntarily.

Luke wants to be sure certain facts stand out through the account of the arrest and conviction of our Lord:

- (1) Jesus is in CONTROL
- (2) The legal process is ILLEGAL;
even so, it finds Him INNOCENT
- (3) Jewish leadership ("God's people")
wants TO KILL JESUS;
pagan politicians defend Him;
want TO FREE HIM 23:4, 14-25

At end of the account, summary tells us what's going on:

23:4 Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man."

23:13-25 Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. ¹⁵ Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶ Therefore, I will punish him and then release him." ¹⁸ With one voice they cried out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!" ¹⁹ (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.) ²⁰ Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. ²¹ But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" ²² For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him." ²³ But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate decided to grant their demand. ²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

ARREST 22:47-53

As Jesus' time of prayer concludes, the mob arrives to arrest Jesus.

A HYPOCRITICAL KISS 47-48 While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, 48 but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Jesus knows all about Judas' plan to betray Him, including the secret sign.

What's the significance of a kiss?

Someone has defined a kiss as "the contraction of the mouth due to the enlargement of the heart."

But not all kisses are born out of love.

For some they are means of deceptive manipulation—to get what we want

For Judas, a kiss is the basest of hypocrisy and treachery.

How hardened would you have to be to use a kiss as a sign of betrayal?

Spurgeon: *Let us tarry awhile and see our Lord ungratefully and dastardly betrayed.* It is appointed that He must die, but how shall He fall into the hands of His adversaries? [after various options] No; He must be betrayed by His friend.... One reason for the appointment of His betrayal, lay in the fact *that it was ordained that man's sin should reach its culminating point in His death....* If it had not been for a Judas, we had not known how black, how foul, human nature may become. I scorn the men who try to apologize for the treachery of this devil in human form, this son of perdition, this foul apostate. I should think myself a villain if I tried to screen him, and I shudder for the men who dare extenuate his crimes. My brethren, we should feel a deep detestation of this master of infamy; he has gone to his own place, and the anathema of David, part of which was quoted by Peter, has come upon him, "When he shall be judged, let him be condemned; and let his prayer become sin. Let his days be few, and let another take his office."... Surely, ... the devil ... was let loose to get possession of Judas as he has seldom gained possession of any other man, that we might see how foul, how desperately evil is the human heart."

***"Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man
WITH A KISS?!!"***

In addition to demonstrating the depths of depravity in rejecting the Savior,
we also see the depths of deception possible.

One can be in a position of respect and responsibility, and still be a phony.

We can put on a great show, unless we protect the heart

and determine to please God, no matter what it may cost us personally.

Judas' desire wasn't to please God,

it was to enrich himself, and ultimately,

like the rest of the leadership of Israel, to stop Jesus!

He was a fake.

But no one could see it, except our Lord Himself.

He knew from the beginning; He never exposed Judas' heart to others.

wasn't their affair.

They went on trusting him, right up to the end!

Why was the crowd so large and armed? What were they afraid of?

Their preparation demonstrates how little they understood about Jesus.

Would He run away and hide? Would He fight back and resist them?

He has been announcing that He came to die

and to be crucified and raised.

They knew He had promised His resurrection.

How would that be accomplished without the cross?

A USELESS SWORD 49-53

Jesus demonstrates COMPASSION FOR PEOPLE,

even in the midst of His own arrest. 49-51 *"When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, 'Lord, should we strike with our swords?'"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.*

The disciples remember, and misunderstand His words about the sword.

So they ask if now is the time to use them.

Without waiting for Jesus' direction,

Peter jumps in with both feet again and attacks a man.

He's consistent.

He told the Lord He was ready to die for Him. Now he proves it.

With one little sword, he takes on the whole hoard
that came out against Jesus with clubs and swords.

This is a fight to the death for Jesus.

Unfortunately, he's better at drawing a sword,
than at taking a stand and facing ridicule or rejection.

Do we know anyone like that?

**He fails to find out what God's plan is
before he handles things his own way, in the flesh,
and gets the ugly fruit of the flesh as a result.**

The Romans carried broad swords into battle.

They were a yard long and could be grasped with both hands
in order to bring them down with force
over the skull of the adversary to split the skull.

There's a small ceremonial dagger, disciples use to prepare the lamb.

Peter took one and tried to use it like a broad sword
on the head of the adversary.

He meant to split his head open.

He missed! All he got was the right ear.

Jesus has to intervene and correct the mess Peter makes,
so that the plan can be carried out God's way.

*Someone has observed: "How busy we keep the Lord putting on ears that we in our
mistaken zeal cut off!"*

Wiersbe: "Peter had been sleeping when he should have been praying,
talking when He should have been listening,
and boasting when he should have been fearing.

Now he was fighting when he should have been surrendering!"

After Peter cuts off the servant's ear, Jesus heals the man.

Peter was fighting the wrong enemy with the wrong weapon.

Our enemies aren't flesh and blood,
and can't be defeated with weapons.

Jesus was the only One who ever defeated Satan;

He did it with the Word of God.

Because we are in Him, we have the same authority.

But we must use the right weapon.

The Word of God is our sword for spiritual conflict.

Peter reveals the wrong attitude and trusts the wrong energy.

His response is typical of our efforts in the flesh!

While Jesus is surrendering, Peter is declaring war.

And he's depending on the flesh to do it.

His approach is unChristlike. Christ presents the absolute contrast.

Jesus has just been talking to the Father

and indicates His willingness to drink cup His Father has given Him.

He is willing to submit completely to the will of God.

Peter is determined to stop it.

If Jesus wanted to stop the plan he could call legions of angels to His side. He doesn't need one weak man's futile attempt against an armed mob.

That happens to us when we try to fight in our own strength.

We make a mess!

Peter should have been praying in the garden.

He should be listening for God's answer about what to do next

He should fight spiritual battles with the power of the Spirit
and the sword of the Spirit.

He should demonstrate love for the instrument Satan's using,
while opposing the evil one and his schemes.

In contrast to Peter's response, Jesus acts in grace:

Through the entire story He attempts to reach out to the betrayer
and pull him back.

Jesus heals the servant

He corrects Peter and the damage he does.

Over and over again you see Jesus' compassion, His concern, His grace, as He reaches out to others—while continuing march toward the cross.

Jesus points out THEIR HYPOCRISY 52-53 *Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "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."*

**Why didn't they arrest Jesus during day,
while He was with them in the temple?**

They know His schedule

They know His whereabouts.

It isn't as if He were a criminal in hiding that they couldn't find!

He knows what they've been discussing in private.

They're more concerned about the people,
than about doing what's right in God's sight.

What does Jesus mean by "Your hour?" 22:53

What does He mean by "this is the power of darkness?"

This is the time God ordained

that they'd be able to accomplish their purpose to get rid of Jesus.

Their time has come.

Their actions in the darkness symbolically demonstrate
their alliance with the forces of darkness.

Not only are they coming out under cover of darkness;
they're acting as agents of the forces of darkness, to kill Messiah.

The garden scene must have been over by about 2:30 a.m., for the 6 trials are complete by morning and Jesus is on the cross by 9:00 a.m.

The arrest in the garden is illegal;

it's done at night and is accomplished through a hired accuser.

Whose response to conflict do we usually imitate?

What does it produce?

What response should we imitate?

What will it produce?

Here's the big question: Whose response will we imitate?

***Each of us must decide whether we will go through life,
pretending, like Judas and the hypocritical leaders,
fighting in the strength of the flesh, like Peter,
or surrendering to the will of God, like Jesus.***

How will WE respond to the spiritual conflict
going on around us?