

**A short review from last week's sermon regarding the Garden of Gethsemane:**

- Crushing of many sorts took place in Gethsemane
  - Gethsemane means oil press.
  - The Garden of Gethsemane is filled with olive trees.
    - Olives were placed on a large stone upon which another large stone was placed which **crushed** the olives and **extracted** the oil from them.
    - Olive oil was very precious and valuable to the people of the Middle East.
  - We identify the Garden as a place of pressing and crushing.
    - You may recall that in Genesis 3, God made a declaration of war upon the enemy. He declared that Messiah would crush the devil's head.
    - The enemy was crushed in the Garden of Gethsemane.
      - The plan of the enemy was to keep Jesus from the cross.
      - The decisive blow was rendered when Jesus Christ yielded Himself and said to the Father, "Not My will be done, but Your will be done." And He willingly went to the cross and laid down His life.
- The Battle of the Will also took place in Gethsemane.
  - Like he had in the Wilderness, the devil once again tempted Jesus to **SKIP THE CROSS!**
    - The moment that Jesus Christ yielded His power to the Father, He won the Battle of the Will - - - victory for you and me.
    - On the cross, Jesus broke the power of sin!
- In our daily lives we will experience gardens of Gethsemane.
  - Battles of the will to do wrong or to do right; to obey Christ or to deny Christ.
    - We saw Jesus submitting to the will of the Father. And, we saw Peter denying Jesus Christ.
  - We need to know that Jesus won the battle for us that we might have victory in our own decisions.
    - The way of victory is ***always*** the cross.
  - Many things will ride upon us as we strive to make right decisions.
    - Ideas of the flesh.
    - Other people's expectations.
    - Other people's desires.
    - God's will.

**If you're ever torn about a decision, the way to victory over it is the way to the cross.**

- Jesus said, "If anyone wants to follow Me, they must pick up their cross and deny themselves."
- The way of the cross is self-denial.
  - It is following God's plan. God's will, above and beyond our own.
- Three disciples were beckoned by Jesus to go deeper into the garden and they were asked to pray.
  - As a congregation, the Lord is also calling us to venture deeper into the garden to pray.
    - We are being called as intercessors for our community.

**Do you know what is going on in your own community?  
What are you doing about it?  
Intercede!**
  - Prayer is a divinely powerful weapon.
    - It is the way in which we can tear down the strongholds of the enemy.
    - Engage in the battle! Engage in intercessory prayer!
  - Prayer and intercession is a selfless act.

**How many people need to lose their lives before you pray?  
How many homicides must there be before you intercede?  
Invest in the kingdom of God!**

    - Prayer is self-sacrifice on behalf of others.
    - It yields tremendous fruit, but it is very much the way of the cross.
      - It is a way of self-denial: laying down your will, your time, and your agenda to intercede on behalf of others.

- These three disciples, including Peter, fell asleep in the garden. Three times Jesus asked them to watch and pray, and three times Peter and the boys fell asleep.
  - Peter gave in to the will of the flesh: he was tired, he was sleepy, and he had good excuses not to do as Jesus asked.

**Thank You, God that we see in Jesus true selflessness.**

**Thank You, that He chose the cross for you and me.**

- Judas was not one of the three, but he betrayed the Lord by giving in to his flesh, giving in to greed for thirty pieces of silver.
  - John 12 states that at the Last Supper, Satan entered Judas and he would go on to betray the Lord.
    - This is heartbreaking when you realize that Judas had walked with the Lord for three years. The Lord had called him friend. The Lord had allowed him to share His experiences.

**Be aware of the temptations of the world!**

- Peter, James and John were being called to make a decision regarding the way of self versus the way of the cross.

**There comes a time when you must leave behind the childish things  
and set your sights on the kingdom of God.**

**“Seek first the kingdom of God and everything else will be added on to you.”**

**Mark 14:** <sup>43</sup> Immediately while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a multitude with swords and clubs, who were from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. <sup>44</sup> Now he who was betraying Him had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I shall kiss, He is the one; seize Him and lead Him away under guard." <sup>45</sup> After coming, Judas immediately went to Him, saying, "Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

- Judas comes and betrays Jesus with a kiss.
  - To greet each other with a kiss was not an uncommon thing in those days.
  - Disciples would often kiss a rabbi on the cheek or on the hand as a show of respect.
  - Because it was night and to avoid any confusion, Judas chose this as a signal with which to identify and betray Jesus.
- For Judas to give Jesus, his rabbi, a kiss was not out of the ordinary. However, the **way** he kissed Jesus **was** out of the ordinary.
  - The word kiss in verse 45 is a very strong verb. It is an intensive compound verb.
  - It is the Greek word *Kataphiléo*, which means to kiss eagerly, affectionately or repeatedly.
    - Judas' kiss was not normal behavior.
    - Judas, the betrayer, kissed Jesus on the cheek with a sense of passion.
    - It is not known if perhaps at that very moment there was some underlying affection in the heart and mind of Judas.
    - Perhaps after walking with Jesus for three years, at the moment of betrayal Judas realized that Jesus was actually a wonderful man and that He **is** the God-man.
    - Perhaps it was the **sickest** form of hypocrisy!
- We **don't** know what was the motive behind Judas' kiss, but we do know that Jesus called Judas "friend" at this moment.
  - Mt. 26:50 **And Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you have come for." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.**
  - Up to the very last moment of His betrayal, Jesus was saying to Judas, "friend;" extending the hand of relationship to him.
    - Prior to this moment, Jesus had mentioned many times that He would be betrayed. "There is one among you who'll betray Me." It was as if He was repeatedly warning Judas, "Don't do it! Here is a chance for repentance! Here is a way out!"
  - Jesus is constantly extending His hand of friendship and relationship to us.
    - Even when we find ourselves in some horrible temptation. We're headed down the road towards destruction, and the Lord is there to say, "Don't. Don't it!" Right up to the moment we are about to sin, Jesus will say, "Friend, come. There's a way out. Don't do this."
- We **do** know that Judas felt remorse for what he had done.
  - **Matthew 27** **3** Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, **4** Saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." but they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself!" **5** And he threw the pieces of silver into the sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself.
  - Judas felt **remorse** but there was **no repentance**.
    - He did what he could to make himself feel better. He tossed the coins because he couldn't live with the "blood money" he had received.
    - Judas never came to God with a genuine change of heart and mind.
    - In 1 Corinthians, Paul had written to the Church in Corinth and used some very strong language. The Church was a mess. There was division, sexual immorality, abuse and many other things were happening there. There is a book that is lost between first and second Corinthians. In the following

passage, he speaks about his first letter. Paul gives us insight on what it is to have true repentance. **2 Corinthians 7 8** For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it – for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for awhile. **9** I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. **10** For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

- Judas had the sorrow of the world. He did not experience sorrow to the point of repentance.
- Judas had regret, remorse and an “I’m sorry” sort of attitude. But, he had no repentance according to the will of God. And there is a big difference between the two.

**There is a difference between a worldly sorrow and a godly sorrow.**

**The worldly sorrow carries with it a little remorse and a little regret.**

**The godly sorrow is a deep heart-felt repentance that seeks forgiveness.**

- Compare this attitude with Peter, who displayed godly sorrow after he denied Jesus. Matthew 26:75 says that Peter wept bitterly. The Lord met Peter on the beach and restored him (John 21). God will never turn away anyone who comes to Him with an attitude of true repentance.
  - Peter told the nation of Israel after Pentecost that “times of refreshing come from being with the Lord, when we repent.”
- Judas refused to repent. Peter had godly sorrow when he repented.

**Be very careful in your life of mere, “I’m sorry, God.”**  
**Seek true repentance.**

**Luke 3:8 “Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.”**

**If you’ve truly repented, then there ought to be some fruit in your life -- a change in our life.**

**“I’m sorry and I’ll never do it again” is not enough!**

- **Mark 14** <sup>46</sup> They laid hands on Him and seized Him.
    - Here is the arrest of Jesus Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane the morning of the cross.
    - The parallel account in **John 18:4-8a** - **4** Jesus therefore, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth, and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” **5** They answered Him, “Jesus the Nazarene.” He said to them, “I am.” And Judas also who was betraying Him, was standing with them. **6** When therefore He said to them, “I am,” they drew back, and fell to the ground. **7** Again therefore He asked them, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus the Nazarene.” **8** Jesus answered, “I told you that I am *He*...”
      - The word “He” is in italics in the New American Standard text. It means that they added the word “He” in italics, meaning that the translators added it for clarification purposes only.
      - Jesus actually said, **“I AM.”**
      - According to the text, hundreds of men came with Judas. Hundreds of men fell to the ground when Jesus responded, **“I AM.”**
      - Jesus is making a clear profession of His deity. He is very clearly, without argumentation and without exception or mistake claiming to be God in the flesh.
        - This is not the first time He made this claim. In **John 8:58** Jesus said, “Truly, Truly I say to you, before Abraham was, **I AM.**”
          - Jesus was referring to and identifying Himself with the name that God gave to Moses in **Exodus 3: 14**. Moses was commissioned by God to deliver Israel from Egypt. When Moses asked the Lord, “Who shall I say sent me?” God told Moses, “... you shall say to the sons of Israel **I Am has sent you.**”
          - When Jesus said, “I AM,” He said it in Greek, “*ego eimi.*”
            - It is the basic verb for “to exist.”
          - So, God told Moses, “I AM, the one who exists, has sent you.”
            - It was the name by which God chose to identify Himself to the nation of Israel. It is the authoritative name that He would be the deliverer.
          - When Jesus made this statement to those who came to arrest Him, it was a very clear claim to His Deity, as the God of the Old Testament.
- People, who say that Jesus never claimed to be God, have never read the Bible!**  
**If you’ve read the Bible, you could never say that!**
- Judging from their response (in that “they fell backwards”), it is very clear **what Jesus said and what He meant.**

**Mark 14** <sup>47</sup> But one of those who stood by drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear.

- We know from last week’s sermon that “one of those” refers to Peter and that the name of the slave is Malchus.
- We can deduce that Peter is acting out in the flesh for a few reasons.
  - He had been overly self-confident when told by Jesus that they would all leave Him. Peter thought this might be true of the others, but **he** would go to prison and to death for Jesus.

- Peter had also experienced a degree of prayerlessness in his life. As Jesus took him further into the garden, further into the battle, He asked him to pray. But, Peter fell asleep.
- Like us on many occasions, in the heat of the moment, Peter responded totally in the flesh.
  - **Proverbs 15:1** “A gentle answer turns away wrath.”
  - The road to misery that Peter took is as easy as these 5 simple steps:
    - #1 - being overly confident in ourselves
    - #2 – succumbing to prayerlessness
    - #3 - following God at a distance
    - #4 - warming ourselves at the enemy’s fire
    - #5 - denying and disassociating ourselves with God and the things of God.
      - July 10, 2005 Study – 5 Steps to Misery
      - <http://jesusisreality.com/carpgoods.php>
- Jesus picked up Malchus’ ear and healed his wound. Jesus told Peter that it was the will of the Father that He should go to the cross.
- This is the second time that Peter was thinking the thoughts of man and not the thoughts of God.
  - In Caesarea, Philippi, Jesus asked Peter, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter replied, “Thou art the Messiah, the Son of God.” Jesus blessed him because flesh and blood had not known the answer, but God the Father in heaven had revealed it to Peter. Then Jesus began to reveal to them that He was going to be handed over to the hands of sinners, He would be nailed to the cross, but after three days He would rise again. At that point Peter interrupted Jesus, took Him aside and began to rebuke Him saying, “Lord, may this never be! Stop talking like that!” And, Jesus looked Peter in the face and said, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are seeking the thoughts of the enemy and not the thoughts of God.”
  - It happens to us so very quickly. We must be very careful that we are walking in the Spirit.
    - Martin Luther said, “I check myself every five minutes to make sure that I am walking in the Spirit.”
      - Maybe we need to check ourselves every five seconds!

**Mark 14** <sup>48</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me, as you would against a robber? <sup>49</sup> "Every day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me; but this has taken place to fulfill the Scriptures."

- They came to arrest Him like a robber, although Jesus had always been available to them. But this happened so that the scriptures might be fulfilled as written.
- In the midst of this battle in the garden, God is in full control.
  - The cross was not an afterthought. It had been prophesied and it was fulfilled.
  - Similarly, we can take a situation, make a huge mess of it and God will redeem it and bring good out of it.
    - **Romans 8:28** “God works all things together for good, to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.”
  - The cross was not a situation that Jesus brought upon Himself. It was not God redeeming a bad situation. The cross was God’s plan for man’s salvation from the very beginning of time.
    - In the Book of Exodus, when He brought them out of Egypt, they slaughtered the Passover lamb. As they put its blood on the posts of their front doors, at the top post, on the left post and on the right post, the blood stains formed a perfect cross.
    - In Isaiah 53, seven hundred years before the cross, we can read of the prophecies concerning the death of Jesus.
    - Psalm 22, speaks of the cross one thousand years before it happened.
    - Numbers 21. Israel was disobedient to God. He sent poisonous serpents among them. They bit the Israelites and they began to die. Moses interceded for the people. God told Moses to make for himself a standard, a vertical pole with a horizontal pole placed on it near the top. (The tribes of Israel used standards to hang their flags and banners.) They were to make a bronze serpent and lay it on the standard. The bronze serpent was a symbol of sin.
      - Corinthians 5:21 “God made Him who knew no sin to become sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of Jesus Christ.”
      - When any Israelite looked at the standard, he was immediately healed of the effects of sin, which were the snakes biting them to death.
      - When we look upon Jesus on the cross, and accept His salvation, we are immediately healed of the effects of sin in our lives.
      - This was a foreshadowing of the cross. God was screaming to humanity that the cross would be our redemption.

**Mark 14** <sup>50</sup> And they all left Him and fled.

- This is a heartbreaking passage. Jesus had previously prophesied that his disciples would abandon Him.

**Mark 14** <sup>51</sup> A young man was following Him, wearing nothing but a linen sheet over his naked body; and they seized him. <sup>52</sup> But he pulled free of the linen sheet and escaped naked.

- The verse says “certain young man” and in the Greek it denotes a young man around 24 – 40 years old.
- Some surmise that it may have been John Mark, the writer of the Gospel According to Mark.
  - Maybe because he is the only one that mentions this event.
  - In Act 12:12; Peter has been miraculously released from prison. We are told that he meets up with the disciples, who have gathered to pray at the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark.
    - It’s inconclusive, but it **may** have happened in the following manner. John Mark’s family home must have been very big to hold so many people. It may have been the home where the Last Supper

took place in their upper room. On many other nights prior to the Last Supper, John Mark may have hung around listening to Jesus teach. The night of the Last Supper, he may have seen Judas leave first. Later, he sees Jesus and His disciples leave and stroll towards Gethsemane. Judas returns to the house with an army of soldiers, but sees that Jesus is no longer there, so he leaves and heads for the Garden. John Mark may have gotten out of bed and followed Judas and the soldiers. Upon the arrest of Jesus, John Mark followed close behind until they tried to seize him and he narrowly escaped, leaving his bed sheet behind!

- It's possible that this is Mark and then it's possible it may not be.

**Mark 14** <sup>53</sup> They led Jesus away to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes gathered together. <sup>54</sup> Peter had followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the officers and warming himself at the fire.

- Jesus is led away to the first of six trials that would lead up to the cross.
- The first trial is before the Sanhedrin. They oversaw Jewish legal and religious affairs. It was made up of 71 elders. They met in the Assembly Hall of the Temple Mount called the chamber of Hewn Stone.
- The Sanhedrin is having a secret meeting in the middle of the night.
  - This was an illegal hearing. It is an unannounced meeting.
  - It is being held in the high priest's house and not at the Assembly Hall.
  - They will accuse Jesus of something that would demand capital punishment.
- In the midst of all this, Peter is there in the courtyard, warming himself at the fire.
  - Step #3 in the five steps to misery.

**Mark 14** <sup>55</sup> Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, and they were not finding any. <sup>56</sup> For many were giving false testimony against Him, but their testimony was not consistent. <sup>57</sup> Some stood up and began to give false testimony against Him, saying, <sup>58</sup> "We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.'" <sup>59</sup> Not even in this respect was their testimony consistent.

- **John 2:19** records that Jesus was actually talking about His own body and its subsequent resurrection when He told the Jews, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."
- They took His words out of context saying that Jesus had said He would destroy the Temple and rebuild it without hands in three days.
- Imbedded within the accusation was that Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah.
  - Throughout history to the present time, all of Judaism believes that when Messiah comes, He will lead Israel in the building of the Temple spoken of in Ezekiel 47.

**Mark 14** <sup>60</sup> The high priest stood up and came forward and questioned Jesus, saying, "Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?" <sup>61</sup> But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

- They ask Jesus point blank if He is the Messiah because they are not able to find any fault with Him.
  - People are coming forward and making up lies about Him.
- They could not level an accusation against Jesus because He was without sin.
  - **This is a very significant doctrinal point.**
    - **Hebrews 7:26** "For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens..."
    - If Jesus **ever** sinned, then He could **never** be the Savior.
      - He would have had to die to pay the price for His own sins.
      - He could have never paid for our sins.
      - He was the just, dying for the unjust.
      - He was the righteous, dying for the unrighteous.
    - There are **blasphemous** movies and books, which have portrayed Jesus as just another ordinary sinner.
      - God have mercy on the soul who makes up this trash.
      - God have mercy on us if we don't become contenders for the faith.

**When someone tries to cast dispersion on Jesus and His character, we have to stand up and say, "No, that is incorrect. Jesus was without sin!"**

**If you are not willing to defend that, then you aren't willing to be a Christian!**

**You cannot be a Christian, unless Jesus was absolutely sinless.**

- It is a doctrinal foundation that we must uphold, teach and defend, in a society that wants to destroy that truth.
- This "trial" was so illegal. Those who were holding it were in violation of Jewish law.
  - **Deuteronomy 19:16-21** <sup>16</sup> If a malicious witness takes the stand to accuse a man of a crime, <sup>17</sup> the two men involved in the dispute must stand in the presence of the LORD before the priests and the judges who are in office at the time. <sup>18</sup> The judges must make a thorough investigation, and if the witness proves to be a liar, giving false testimony against his brother, <sup>19</sup> then do to him as he intended to do to his brother. You must purge the evil from among you. <sup>20</sup> The rest of the people will hear of this and be afraid, and never again will such an evil thing be done among you. <sup>21</sup> Show no pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.
    - According to Jewish law, if someone gives false testimony in a Jewish trial against his brother, the penalty is that he should be put to death.
  - Not only are people giving false testimonies against Jesus, but they are also contradicting one another.

- According to the law of Israel, the Sanhedrin should have stopped the trial, declared a mistrial, and punished those people for falsely testifying against Jesus.
  - They didn't do any of those things.

**NOTE: it is important that you see that as these trials of the Messiah unfold, at every turn Jesus stands as absolutely righteous and blameless. Every time humanity has an opportunity in His trials, they will err and they will sin. And, Jesus still chose to die for their sin. "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."**

- Through all the false accusations, Jesus remained silent, fulfilling prophecy that had been written about Him some 700 years earlier.
  - **Isaiah 53:7** "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth."
- In **Mark 14:61**, the high priest put Jesus under oath asking, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"
  - This account is also in **Matthew 26:63** where it states, "The high priest put Him under oath and asked, 'Are you the Messiah?'"
  - According to the Book of **Leviticus 5:1**, if anyone was put under oath in a Jewish trial, they had to tell the truth or they would bear the guilt.
  - Jesus was put under oath by the high priest. Although He had remained silent up to this point, Jesus now had to tell the truth and reveal His identity.

**Mark 14** <sup>62</sup> And Jesus said, "I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."

- Jesus is **very careful** to obey the minutiae of the Law.
  - It says in the New Testament that if we are guilty of one part of the Law, we are guilty of the entire Law.
  - If Jesus had remained silent after being put under oath, He would have been guilty of disobeying Leviticus 5:1. He would be a sinner and He would not have been able to atone for our sins.
- Jesus clearly claimed to be the Messiah by saying, "I am."
- Jesus clearly claimed His deity, when He said, "Coming with the clouds of heaven."
- Jesus is quoting from two passages from the Old Testament.
  - **1. Daniel 7** "13 I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. 14 And to Him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed."
    - If you read the gospel accounts, Jesus' favorite term for Himself was the Son of Man. He wasn't speaking of Joseph, or of His humanity. Jesus was speaking of His deity. He is the Messiah who would inherit the kingdom. He gets this from this passage.
    - When the high priest asked if He was the Messiah, Jesus answered, "I am." Inherent in that statement was, "I am the One who has been given dominion, who will inherit the kingdom, and whom every nation will bow down to."
      - The high priest absolutely knew what Jesus was implying with that statement.
  - **2. Psalm 110:1** "The Lord says to my Lord: 'Sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet.'"
    - The **Lord** is speaking to the **Lord!**?
      - The meaning of the first Lord is the Hebrew *Yahweh*, the ineffable name of God.
      - The second Lord is the Hebrew word *Adonai*, meaning master.
    - The passage is saying, "Yahweh says to Adonai: 'Sit at My right Hand until I make Thine enemies a footstool for thy feet.'"
      - This speaks of the deity of the Messiah. Jesus would inherit the kingdom. Every enemy would be put under subjection to Him.
- When Jesus answered the high priest, He basically said, "I am God in the flesh. I am the Messiah. Every kingdom shall bow. Every enemy shall be put under My feet."

**Mark 14** <sup>63</sup> Tearing his clothes, the high priest said, "What further need do we have of witnesses? <sup>64</sup> "You have heard the blasphemy; how does it seem to you?" And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death.

- The High Priest ripped his clothes when he heard Jesus' declaration.
  - This was normal behavior in the Jewish culture. It was an act of mourning, protest, heartbreak, or distress. Jews would tear their clothes, put ashes upon their heads, put on a sackcloth and weep, mourn, lament or protest.
  - It is not normal behavior for the high priest. In Leviticus 21:10 we are told that the high priest is **never** to tear his clothes. Once again, they violated the Law.

**Jesus fulfilled prophecy and He obeyed perfectly.  
He stood in the midst of sinners, ready to die and to save them.**

**Mark 14** <sup>65</sup> Some began to spit at Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him with their fists, and to say to Him, "Prophecy!" And the officers received Him with slaps in the face.

- Some translations say "with rods across the face."
  - Have you ever been hit when you can't see it coming?

- These are Roman soldiers, at the peak of physical condition, trained to be killing machines. They are beating Him, spitting on Him, blindfolding Him, and slapping Him across the face with a bamboo rod, and asking Him to prophecy who would hit Him next.
  - At any moment, Jesus **could** have prophesied. He **knew everything** and He knew all of their sins. But, He stood there and took it for them and for all of us.
  - Jesus had all the authority and had just proclaimed His deity. God took on the humiliation that He might pay for our sin.

**It is unbelievable! It is unfathomable!**

**Jesus had all the authority, had all the power, and knew everything.  
Yet, He stood there and allowed His own creation hit Him, mock Him,  
spit on Him, and beat Him senseless.**

- Isaiah 52 says that Jesus was marred beyond recognition.
- This is the very definition of meekness.
  - **Meek does not mean weak.**
  - In England, the horse that wins the race is called the meek horse. The strongest horse that was the most submitted to his master.

**Meekness is power in submission.**

**Jesus submitted to the will of the Father.**

**He endured the cross, despising the shame,  
for the joy that was set before Him for our forgiveness!**

- When Jesus was beaten at this trial, this too was against Jewish Law.
- Peter was standing in the courtyard. He heard every slap, every blow and he still denied Him.

**Mark 14** <sup>66</sup> As Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came, <sup>67</sup> and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Nazarene." <sup>68</sup> But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are talking about." And he went out onto the porch. <sup>69</sup> The servant-girl saw him, and began once more to say to the bystanders, "This is one of them!" <sup>70</sup> But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders were again saying to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean too." <sup>71</sup> But he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this man you are talking about!" <sup>72</sup> Immediately a rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had made the remark to him, "Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." And he began to weep.

- We talked about more about Peter's denial two weeks ago.
  - (See sermon notes for July 10, 2005 at <http://jesusisreality.com/carpgoods.php>)
- When Peter began to swear, he did not use foul language. He said something to the effect of, "May God kill me and damn me if I am lying. I don't know Jesus Christ." All the while, he could hear the blows and the beatings taking place inside the high priest's home.

**Church! Be aware of prayerlessness.**

**Be aware of covetousness and flirting with the things of the world.**

**Be aware of warming yourselves at the enemy's fire.**

**The world is hurling insults at Jesus Christ.**

**The enemy has declared war.**

**Stand for and confess the Lord, and pray that God would heal our land.**

**Pastor Britt's Closing Prayer:**

Lord, we thank You that You took every one of those fists for us. That even for those people who hit You, You would take those nails for them. God, we thank You for that amazing love. We pray for anyone who has not recognized You as Lord. They've heard today that You fulfilled prophecy and You obeyed perfectly. If anyone does not recognize You as the only unique Savior, I pray now that they would. I ask Lord that You would bring them to a place of repentance, taking them beyond "I'm sorry" and "I know it's wrong." Take them to a place of true repentance. That they may do an about face; turn away from sin and turn to a God that loves them, who wants to save them, who willingly laid down His life for them. Thank You, Jesus, that You did this for me. You did this for us.

**A Word From Pastor Britt:**

If you are recognizing for the first time today that Jesus really is who He claimed to be: the only unique Son of God, the One who died upon the cross for our sins; if you are recognizing that today, you also need to realize that you are a sinner. That you, just like those who put Jesus on trial, have made mistakes and have contradicted the will of God and the word of God. Today, you need to repent.

Repentance is not a bad thing. Repentance is a good thing. According to the Bible, when we repent we're forgiven and we come into the presence of God and refreshing comes into our lives. The slate is wiped clean. You are given a second chance, a brand new chance on life. You are given eternal life. But, *you've* got to make the decision. You've got to come recognizing who Jesus is, realizing that He died upon the cross for your sins, and be willing to receive Him as your Lord and Savior. *You've* got to ask Him. He extends it to you today. If you want that, just say, "God, I'm wrong. You're right. Jesus, thank you that You died for me. Save me and forgive me."

If you pray that with sincerity from your heart, God will hear you. He will forgive you. He will start a new work in your life. He'll remove your condemnation, shame and guilt. You will enter into a relationship with the living God. And then, He opens up the way to Himself for you. In time of need, you can enter into the throne of grace to receive help. You can go beyond the things of this world right into the presence of God, having the sin-problem removed.

Christians, as we spoke of last week, if there is anything you need to be repentant of now's the time. This isn't the season to play games with God. We are in an incredibly intense and heartbreaking season in our community. It's time to get real. It's time to seek first the kingdom of God. It's time to get real about His work and His will.

Do business with God as you worship Him. Pray. Confess your sins to one another that you might be healed. Let's draw near to God. Let Him do something in our lives, that He might do something in our community.

### **STUDY QUESTIONS:**

1. Doctors say that if we exercise and eat right, we'll live longer and better lives. But, what happens to us if we stop eating from the Bread of Life and allow our flesh to become sleepy, or too concerned with the things of the world?
2. Jesus, who was sinless, spent many moments with the Father in Heaven praying and interceding for us. Jesus Himself taught us how to pray. What makes prayer such a *divine weapon* that can actually tear down the strongholds of the enemy?
3. Compare how Jesus, Peter and Judas each handled so differently the temptations that the devil placed at their feet. What can we learn from them? How can we prepare ourselves for victory at the next battle of the will?
4. The Bible says that when we come with a true repentant heart, Jesus welcomes us back with open arms and no strings attached. In fact, He calls us, friend. How would you welcome back a repentant friend, who may have betrayed or abused you?
5. Do you display worldly sorrow or godly sorrow when you sin against God? How often have you said to God, "I'm sorry. I'll never do that again." Then you go your merry way without giving it another thought, without discussing the situation further with God, and without asking the Holy Spirit to search and cleanse your heart. Now, why do you think that it's so easy for you to keep doing "it" again and again?
6. As Christians we uphold to the doctrinal foundation that Jesus is the God-man who never sinned. However, when the book the De Vinci Code came out, it caused quite a stir and negatively impacted the way the world views the deity and holiness of Jesus Christ. This fall, a movie will come out based on this book. Are you prepared to uphold, teach and defend this truth to a society that desperately wants to destroy it? How?