

THE ARREST OF JESUS

Judas knew that the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives was a favorite hang-out for Jesus and His disciples. That's where he leads the posse of soldiers and temple guards. They're armed with torches, spears and swords.

They've come to arrest the Son of God.

When the arresting officers say they're looking for "Jesus of Nazareth," verse 6 tells us, "when (Jesus) said to them, "I am He," - they drew back and fell to the ground." Remember "*I am*" was the name God gave to Moses from the burning bush. The Hebrews understood Jesus' use of the phrase as a claim to deity.

When Jesus spoke, the force of His words bowled them over. His words had the effect of a stun gun. His confession knocked the soldiers on their backside.

Obviously, Jesus had power.

Peter should've known if Jesus had wanted to defend Himself He could've done so. All He needed to do was speak a word. Instead Peter takes it upon himself to defend Jesus. He starts swinging a sword.

Verse 10, "Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus." I believe Peter wanted to split Malchus' head in half - but

at the last minute the guy saw what was coming, moved his head, and Peter clipped off his right ear.

It's ironic, Peter's ears remained on his head but he apparently had not used them. In the upper room Jesus had taken a bowl and towel to serve - He'd taught the disciples they could change the world through washing feet. Here Peter thinks he can do a better job with a sword. Jesus wanted to save Malchus... not kill him.

Dr. Luke tells us, "(Jesus) touched his ear and healed him." As He *re-attaches* Malchus' ear, Jesus explains to Peter how *detached* his actions were from God's will. Verse 11 says, "Then Jesus said to Peter, 'Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?,' " meaning His death.

Ironically, Jesus' last miracle was to heal a wound inflicted by His own disciple. Sadly, over the history of the Church, He's had to repeat that miracle many times. Rather than take up the sword to fight - Jesus calls His followers to take up a towel and serve. You're never more like Jesus than when you love your enemies!

Devotion Box - Warming By The Enemies' Fire

Here's a sign that Peter is really in trouble. 18:18 says he stood warming himself by the enemies' fire. Remember, Luke tells us Peter followed Jesus at a distance. Now John adds, he's warming himself by the enemies' campfire.

Isn't that how it begins... you let a little distance grow between you and the Master. Then you turn to worldly and sinful sources of warmth and enjoyment. You turn to the world to meet your needs and warm the coldness inside. Before long you've denied the Lord you had committed to follow.

Devotion Box - The Humanist's Dilemma

Pilate asks Jesus in 18:33, "Are You King of the Jews?" This was the charge the Jews hoped would get Jesus a death sentence. For a person to make such a claim was treason against Caesar. Pilate would be forced to have Jesus crucified.

Jesus doesn't deny being King, but says in verse 36, "My kingdom is not of this world." His was a spiritual kingdom. Jesus was not a king who came to fight. Jesus came to spread truth... but when He mentions the word "truth," Pilate, a Roman steeped in relativism and humanism, grows cynical. He says, "What is truth?" Little did this Roman governor know he was speaking with *THE Truth!*

Place Pilate under a magnifying glass and his problem gets a little clearer... Pilate knew Jesus was innocent, but for fear of the Jews, he refuses to do the right thing and free Him. In essence, the truth he did know, Pilate lacked the guts and courage to obey. That's the humanist's problem today. It's not that truth doesn't exist - it does - but living it requires more courage than denying it.

BEHOLD THE MAN

In John 19:1 we're told, "So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him." Listen to historian and medical doctor, William Edwards, describe the Roman scourging, "The usual instrument was a short whip with several single or braided leather thongs of variable length in which small iron balls or sharp pieces of sheep bones were tied at intervals. For scourging, the man was stripped of his clothing and his hands were tied on an upright post. The back, buttocks, and legs were flogged by two soldiers who were known as lictors... As the Roman soldiers repeatedly struck the victim's back with full force, the iron balls would cause deep contusions and the leather thongs and sheep bones would cut into the skin and subcutaneous muscles, and produce quivering ribbons of bleeding flesh." That's the end result... "quivering ribbons of bleeding flesh."

Next a crown of thorns is twisted on His head - and a purple robe laid over His bleeding back. The soldiers mock Jesus with their words, and slap Him with their hands. Pilate brings out a mocked and mutilated Jesus hoping the Jews will see the miserable sight, and have pity. Pilate introduces Jesus, "Behold the Man!"

Pilate is hoping to free himself from the guilt of sentencing an innocent man to death. Today, Pilate's words "Behold the Man!" are often used as a challenge to the skeptic to examine the reliability of the claims of Christ. Originally though, they were used to conjure up pity.

Devotion Box - "It Is Finished"

In 19:30 Jesus says, "It is finished," or in the Greek... *"tetelestai."* In classical Greek the word was used in numerous ways... of the servant who had just completed an assignment... of the priest who had examined the sacrifice and declared it faultless... of the accountant who marked the bill *paid-in-full*.

On the cross, Jesus wrapped up the loose ends that had been dangling since the beginning of time. On the cross, our salvation became a done deal.

An old evangelist named, Alexander Wooten, was once asked, "Sir, what must I do to be saved?" Wooten told the young man, "I'm sorry, but you're too late." The guy was crestfallen, and with desperation in his voice, he pleaded, "Please, is there anything I can do to be saved?" Wooten answered him, "It's too late for you to do anything. The work has already been done. All you can do is believe."

When Jesus returned to heaven He sat down at the right hand of the Father. His work is finished. He's sitting down. We need to rest with Him, and trust in the work He's already done. Our rallying cry needs to be, *"Tetelestai... It is finished."*

JESUS' RESURRECTED BODY

After Jesus' crucifixion, we're told in John 20:19, the disciples were meeting behind "shut" doors. The Greek word means *"locked and bolted."* They were afraid that they were next on the Jewish hit list. There's no mention Jesus knocked on the door. He just appears in the room. Walls and bolted doors were no barriers for the risen Christ.

When Jesus came out of the tomb, He had the same body that died on the cross - but at the resurrection that body was given new characteristics. It enjoyed a new molecular structure that enabled it to dematerialize and pass through walls. It was able to travel great distances in a few seconds. It had supernatural capacities. Nevertheless, Jesus was still human - His post-resurrection body was still the body Mary laid in the manger. In chapter 21, Jesus even eats fish on the beach. But His body has now been transformed. As Paul would later say to the Corinthians, "corruption must put on incorruption."

PILATE THE PAWN

Pilate brings Jesus back for further interrogation. Pilate asks Him in 9, "Where are You from?" Jesus remains silent.

Of course this angered Pilate. "Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" Pilate assumed he was deciding Jesus' fate. But Jesus informs him in verse 11, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above..." Pilate was just a pawn in God's master plan.

Devotion Box - An Issue You Can't Avoid

We're told in 19:13, "From then on Pilate sought to release Him..." Matthew 27:19 says that his wife, Claudia, even had a dream warning Pilate to leave Jesus alone... and he tries his best to avoid the issue. Matthew tells us that Pilate washed his hands, trying to absolve himself of any responsibility.

The problem is that Jesus is not an issue you can avoid. We all eventually have to take a stand... you can't remain neutral... you're either for Him or against Him.

Devotion Box - Receive The Holy Spirit

Jesus showed His disciples the scars in His hands and feet. They believed in the risen Christ, and as a result, "He breathed on them, and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit."

To this day, anyone who believes in the risen Jesus will receive the indwelling Holy Spirit.

MARY MEETS HER MASTER

On her way from the tomb Mary bumps into a man she thinks is the gardener. She wonders what he's done with the corpse of Jesus. Obviously, her faith had been consumed in the flames of crucifixion. She has no idea Jesus is alive.

But when the gardener speaks her name - immediately she recognizes He's Jesus! It's interesting that she didn't recognize Jesus by His appearance.

Perhaps her eyes were supernaturally blinded - as were the eyes of disciples on the Road to Emmaus. Or it's possible she didn't recognize Jesus because of the disfigurement He suffered on the cross. Isaiah 53:14 predicted that Messiah's face would be so marred that it would no longer resemble the face of a man.

Imagine the scars on Jesus' face. He had been beaten and bloodied. They plucked out His beard. They drove thorns into His brow. Jesus' face probably looked like a person who'd just gone through the windshield of a car.

Let me surprise you... I believe the face of Jesus still bears those same scars. When John sees Jesus, later in Revelation 5:6, he says, "And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne... stood a Lamb as though it had been slain..."

Apparently, Jesus still bears the scars of crucifixion. It may be a shocker for you and me when we first look into the face of Jesus. We'll be reminded what it

cost Him for us to be saved. *We'll be sad... but we'll also be glad...* because one look at those scars will erase any doubt we might've had that He really loves us.

Mary didn't recognize Jesus until He spoke her name. When Mary's parents spoke her name it was to scold her - when the men in her life spoke her name it was to manipulate her - when neighbors spoke her name they were out to judge her - but when Jesus said "Mary," - it brought peace.

There was such compassion and tenderness in His voice - when Jesus spoke her name she knew she was loved. *Listen... He may be speaking your name...*

Apparently, Mary was so glad to see Jesus she dropped to her knees and grabbed His legs. This time she would never let Him leave. But Jesus tells her in 20:17, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father..."

Jesus is telling her that His physical presence isn't permanent. His body will return to the Father. Their relationship won't end, but it will change. Mary will have to learn to relate to Jesus in another way - *through His Spirit*. In essence, Jesus is saying to Mary... rather than tighten your grip, you need to strengthen your faith.

BELIEVING IS SEEING

Thomas had been out running errands when Jesus appeared earlier. He's adamant. He refuses to believe until he sees the scars with his own eyes. Eight days later Jesus reappears - and this time Thomas is present.

In verse 27, Jesus tells Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." Thomas utters His confession, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus says to Thomas in verse 29, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Thomas though has a lot to learn about faith. The world has an adage, "Seeing is believing." But Jesus says just the opposite, "Believing is seeing."

The resurrection appearances of Jesus lasted a mere seven weeks, then He ascended into heaven. Today we believe to see, not vice versa.

Notice verse 31, we're told the Jews were anxious to get the bodies off the cross because sundown started the Sabbath - but then it says, "but that Sabbath was a high day" - or not a normal, but a special Sabbath.

This has led some folks, including myself, to believe that Jesus was crucified on Thursday, not Friday. In Matthew 12:40 Jesus said, "As Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth..."

If Jesus was crucified on Friday there's no way He could've been in the grave for that long a period of time. If we were exact, we would celebrate *Good Thursday*, not *Good Friday*.

GOOD THURSDAY

Devotion Box - You Follow Me

Peter had the tendency to compare himself with his peers. No sooner does Jesus speak of his plight that Peter asks about John in 21:21, "But Lord, what about this man?" Jesus answers him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."

Jesus has a particular plan for each of us. Comparing yourself and your situation to another believer will only cause confusion. When I get my eyes on you... the guy who gets in trouble is me.

Here's a great rule... Keep your eyes on Jesus, and your nose out of other believer's business. If God wants you to be concerned about someone He'll lay that person on your heart... otherwise, "what is that to you? You follow Me."

Bible Scan - John 18-21

Calvary Chapel

If you have questions on tonight's study email Pastor Sandy - sandyadams@calvarychapel.org
For back issues of Bible Scan study guides: www.calvarychapelstonemountain.com/biblescan.htm

Calvary Chapel Announcements— **Baptism** between services, Sunday March 3rd. Contact Pastor James if you would like to be baptized.
Baby Dedication, Sunday, March 10th. Contact the church office for details.
Good Friday Walk Through, Thursday, March 28th—Friday, March 29th.

- Next Bible Scan - February 24, 2002 - Acts 1-5

“Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed.
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” - John 21:29

Bible Scan Memory Verse

PETER GOES FISHING

In John 21, Jesus joins a fishing party. In verse 3, “Simon Peter said to them, ‘I am going fishing.’ They said to him, ‘We are going with you also...’” One commentary I read indicates Peter’s words are in the progressive tense... which implies a continual activity. He’s not just suggesting a recreational trip. He figures it’s time to reopen the family’s fishing business. It’s time to get back to work. Six other disciples join him.

I’m sure Peter’s actions were born out of his own sense of failure. The heady days with Jesus were over. The walking on water... the living by faith... the keys to the kingdom... the idea that He might be used to build the kingdom of God – had all come crashing down in the wake of His denial of Jesus. Yes, the Lord had graciously forgiven him, but he’s certain he’s now disqualified for ministry.

We’re told in verse 3, “They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.” I’m sure a depressed and defeated Peter thought, “Well, I’m obviously a lousy disciple, but at least I can catch a few fish...” But then he goes out and catches nothing. Guys, if God has called you to serve Him in a certain capacity - you’ll never be happy or successful doing anything else.

Suddenly, the frustrated fishermen hear a voice from the shore. Verse 5, “Children, have you any food?” Here’s the question every fisherman hears from time to time. Literally, “have you caught anything?” They shouted back, “No.”

But the voice shouts back something they’d heard only one time in the past. Verse 6, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” It’s interesting, that’s what Jesus said in Luke 5 when He first called Peter to follow Him. Jesus is repeating the calling of Peter. He’s recalling Peter to the ministry God has for him. When the nets come up full, it’s John who realizes “this has happened to us before...” It hits him!... He says to Peter, “It is the Lord!”

Verse 7 is typical Peter. He’s so excited it is the Lord, that he puts on the clothes he’s taken off to fish. *Then what does he do?* He jumps into the lake. He puts on his clothes to jump into the lake. That’s impulsive Pete.

Understand, throughout the 40 days between His resurrection and ascension Jesus was always popping in on His disciples. And He does the same today. When you least expect it, Jesus will reveal Himself in your life or situation. Keep your eyes open. Don’t you be slow to recognize His divine visits.

PETER’S SECOND CHANCE

After breakfast Jesus talks to Peter. He’s going to redirect Peter’s life. Remember Peter denied Jesus three times - now three times his love is questioned.

“Simon... do you love Me more than these?” The question is, what does Jesus mean by these?

These fish? Do you really want to return to a life on the lake, or do you want to continue to follow Me? Maybe, *these other men?* Peter once boasted that though all would deny Jesus, he would never deny Jesus... Three times Peter denied Jesus. Now three times Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him! And each time Peter responds, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love you.”

But here’s what you pick up in the original language that we miss in English. The first two times Jesus asks about Peter’s love He uses a Greek word *agape*. *Agape love* is God’s love – a sacrificial and unselfish love. Peter answers, Yes, Lord; You know that I love you.” But Peter doesn’t use the word *agape*, rather He uses “*phileo*” – a term for brotherly love – no doubt, a lesser love.

This time Peter is not as quick to make boasts. He no longer trusts in himself and his own resolve. He knows he needs God’s help. Finally, the last time, Jesus comes down to Peter’s level, “Do you (phileo) Me?” And Peter says, “Lord, You know all things; You know I (phileo) You.”

It’s as if He’s saying, “That’s okay Peter. It’s better to be humble than proud.” Before Peter learned his lesson, he was quicker to doubt Jesus than to doubt himself - but never again, Peter now doubts himself, but trusts in Jesus.

Each time Peter says He loves Jesus, the Lord tells him to prove it by tending or feeding His sheep. Peter can fish for fortune... or care for the flock of God. In a delicate, yet profound way Peter is being reinstated to the ministry.

Peter is challenged to express his love for Jesus by serving the Church. And this is the heart of all true Christian ministry. You show your love for Jesus by loving and feeding and tending His people. If you love Jesus, love His family.