

Exegetical Notes - Luke 22:47-71

“The Hour When Darkness Ruled”

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Luke 22:47-71

Verse 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, but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

- Just as Jesus awakened the disciples from their sleep and admonished them to pray not to fall into temptation, Judas entered the garden where Jesus was on the Mount of Olives. He was leading the men sent by the chief priests to arrest Jesus.
- Judas walked up to Jesus intending to greet Jesus in the usual way, with a kiss. But this kiss was the signal to the men he led. They would know who Jesus was because he would be the one Judas kissed.
- Jesus revealed to Judas that he knew what Judas was doing with the words, “Are you betraying me (the Son of Man) with a kiss?”

Verse 49-51

When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.

- Remember the discussion in the Upper Room about swords - Luke 22:36-38. When the Apostles saw that Jesus was about to be arrested, they assumed that it was time for them to fight for Jesus. Remember they had two swords!
- Acting quickly, Peter pulled out his sword and cut off the ear of Malchus (John 18:10), a servant of the High Priest.
- Jesus stopped the violent attack and healed Malchus’ wound.

Verse 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? 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.”

- Jesus reminded the leaders of the group who had come to arrest him that he was not leading an open, armed rebellion. He reminded them that he had been with them in the Temple courts each day that week and they had made no move to arrest him. He then told them that he understood what was happening. This was the hour when evil would rule!

Verse 54-62

Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the High Priest. Peter followed at a distance. But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, “This man was with him.” But he denied it. “Woman, I don’t know him,” he said. A little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” “Man, I am not!” Peter replied. About an hour later another asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.” Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.

- At that moment in history darkness descended and took control.
- The first sign of evil’s reign over the Earth was that Jesus’ closest followers deserted him. Judas betrayed him into the hands of his enemies. The other disciples ran away in fear. Peter followed Jesus into the courtyard of the High Priest’s house but then, in Jesus’ hearing, denied that he even knew who Jesus was three times in quick succession just as Jesus had warned him he would do.

Verse 63-65

The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. They blindfolded him and demanded, “Prophecy! Who hit you?” And they said many other insulting things to him.

- The second sign of evil's reign was that men mocked Jesus. They made cruel fun of him. They became increasingly mean, striking him and beating him.

Verse 66-71

At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. "If you are the Christ," they said, "tell us." Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I asked you, you would not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God." They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied, "You are right in saying I am." Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips."

- Next, Jesus was taken before the Sanhedrin, Israel highest and most august court. It was composed of the religious leaders of the nation of Israel, those who had been entrusted by God to protect the truth.
- The court asked Jesus questions which were designed to cause him to incriminate himself. Legally, this should not have been done. They should have called witnesses to accuse him. On the basis of what they heard him say, the judges declare themselves the witnesses for the prosecution. They need hear nothing more. They already know that Jesus is guilty.
- The third sign of evil's reign is that the religious leaders, who should defend truth, deny truth and feel absolutely justified in their denial of it.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *The Hour When Darkness Ruled*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen*. They are used here by permission.)