

Passion Part 2 – I Love It When A Plan Comes Together

Matthew 26:47-56

Jesus is betrayed by one of his disciples v. 47-50

At the Passover meal: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me...And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.” - John 13:21-22, 26

Judas’s arrangement to betray Jesus was for thirty pieces of silver

The price of a common slave in the Old Testament
Joseph was sold by his brothers for 20 pieces of silver
An ancient Sumerian saying: “It is considered a mere thirty shekels worth.”

Judas approaches Jesus, kissed him and greeted him as ‘Rabbi’. Judas comes and acts like a friend, and acts like he respects Jesus (that’s what betrayers do) but it was all an enemies plan.

He said to them, “I am He,” they drew back and fell to the ground.” - John 18:4-6

Jesus is resisting violence by not fighting back v. 51-53

Peter drew his sword and struck the ear of one of the servants of the high priest. Jesus immediately stopped the violence and reprimanded Peter for his efforts.

Jesus does this to show two things

1. The Kingdom of God is not a kingdom of violence
2. Jesus is declaring that no one is taking His life...He is willingly giving His life.

...I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative... John 10:17-18

Jesus had the upper hand even when he looked defeated v. 54-56

Notice, what is happening is fulfilling prophecy.

Jesus is showing that these unjust men were doing the work of God as it came to Jesus being led to the cross. When it looks like Jesus is losing, he’s still winning!

Conclusion:

Jesus is again, in practice, surrendering to the father’s will.
Jesus is showing that in spite of the enemies plan, God’s plan is the plan that is ultimately working.

So what can we do?

1. Stay faithful in prayer (unlike the disciples in the garden)
2. Trust in God’s plan
3. Don’t give in to the pressure (the negative situation, bitterness, anger, or violence)
4. Praise through the pain