

Betray Jesus or Turn to Him in Faith?

July 31, 2022
Mark 14:12-21

Pastor Mark Turner
Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Last Week of Jesus' Ministry on Earth

- Jesus entered Jerusalem on Sunday triumphantly
- Jesus taught & confronted in temple
- Religious leaders plot to kill Jesus but afraid of crowds
- Judas went to chief priests and betrayed Jesus¹⁰

Passover in Jerusalem

- Jerusalem had swelled in size with Passover Pilgrims
- Noisy, lambs everywhere
- A celebration to remember God's salvation^{Exodus 12:43} commanded at the place God commanded^{Dt16:6}
- Disciples celebrate in Upper Room within Jerusalem

A Note on Chronology

- after sunset Thursday disciples ask about Passover meal
- Thursday night they celebrate Passover together
- Late that night they walk to Garden of Gethesemane where Jesus arrested & taken before Caiaphas^{Jewish high priest}
- daybreak Friday, Jesus taken to Pilate^{Roman Governor} where formal trial takes place in Praetorium^{next to Temple}
- Jesus crucified as offering for sin on Friday afternoon, the official time of the sacrifice of the lambs.

According to God's Plan

- Mark uses the word prepare^{12,15,16} 3x in this narrative
- Jesus wasn't caught off guard, but orchestrated events
- Leaders tried to delay² until after, Judas' betrayal¹⁰ hastened

The Betrayer Isn't Told About the Upper Room 13-16

- Jesus sent Peter & John^{Lk22:7} to prepare
- Almost spy-like instructions so Judas is unaware of location
- This unfolded like triumphal entry^{11:2-3} as God planned
- Disciples have no clue of plan yet, Peter later does^{Act2:23}
- Jesus wanted quiet place to teach^{Jn14-17} & prepare disciples
- So What? YOUR life is not just a random set of events!

God's Plan Through An Act of Betrayal

- Mark's brevity skips all the teaching, John will handle that
- Jesus is vague about betrayer¹⁸ WHY?
- Causes disciples to each think, "Is it me?"
- Robert Murray M'Cheyne: "the seeds of all sins are in my heart"
- Jesus wanted disciples & us to reflect on sin in our hearts!

Jesus Offers Repentance to Judas

- Jesus states generally because He desire Judas' repentance
- God desires for all to repent^{Act 17:30; 2 Pet 3:9}, all given offer
- Jesus was gracious and patient with Judas
- APPLY: Do you need to repent?^{Heb3:13-14}
- It is NOT too late as long as it is today... share in Christ by faith - He is the Lamb of God who takes away sin^{Jn1:29}

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