

***Prayer:***

**Slide # 1**

***Theme: Christ the King***

***Outline:***

- Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)
- Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.
- Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)
- Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)
- Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)
- Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.
- Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.
- Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.
- Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.
- Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.
- Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.
- Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.**
- Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

In our study, we are in the Passion Week that builds to the cross. In Matthew 26 we are in the deep dark shadow of the cross.

It is amazing how much emphasis God puts on the last week of Christ’s earthly ministry which culminated in the cross and His resurrection.

**Slide # 2**

There are eighty-nine chapters in the four Gospels. Four of these chapters cover the first thirty years of the life of Jesus and eighty-five chapters the last three years of His life. Of those eighty-five chapters, twenty-seven deal with the last eight days of His life. So about one-third of the gospel records deal with the last few days and place the emphasis on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**– J. Vernon McGee**

The emphasis is placed here because this is where our salvation was wrought! It is so important that the Church is forever remembering as we continually partake of communion until Christ comes again.

In Matthew 26 we find the Jewish religious leaders plotting to kill Jesus; we find Mary anointing Jesus for burial; we find Judas negotiating to betray Jesus; we find Jesus and His disciples partaking of Passover which is also known as “the last Supper” in which Jesus also instituted “The Lord’s Supper”.

And in this context we find Jesus predicting Peter’s denial and the disciples scattering, and then in the garden, we find Christ praying and the disciples sleeping.

Suddenly Jesus aroused the slumbering disciples with “***Behold the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, rise let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.***” (Mt. 26:45-46).

And that is where we pick the narrative up – at Matthew 26:47.

#### **Matthew 26:47–56 (NKJV)**

**47 And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people.**

It all happened very suddenly. The disciples were awakened out of a deep sleep to all this commotion. While Jesus was still speaking to the disciples suddenly Judas and this great multitude were converging upon them.

This great multitude was being led by Judas who knew exactly where to look for Jesus. After all, he was “one of the twelve”. He is identified this way in the context of his betrayal in all 4 gospels as if to highlight the gravity of his heinous actions (Mt. 26:47; Mk. 14:43; Lk. 22:47; Jn. 6:71).

Betrayal is always sinfully treacherous but it is especially heinous when one is in a most favored and trusted position. It is one thing to think about the outsiders – the overt enemies of Christ trying to get Him, but this was “***one of the twelve***”. This was an insider job. There is nothing more insidious and hurtful than that.

Shakespeare wrote a play called “Julius Caesar”. The story involves the conspiracy to murder Julius Caesar. As they ambush him Caesar notes that among the assassins is his old friend “Brutus”. And as Brutus stabs him, Caesar says, “***You too Brutus?***” Betrayal is so atrocious!

If you have ever been betrayed by someone really close to you – you know that is one of the most painful things in life – really indescribable!

### **Slide # 3**

#### **Psalm 41:9 (NKJV)**

**9** Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.

#### **John 13:18 (NKJV)**

**18** “I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.’

The Scripture knew all along, Jesus knew all along who the betrayer was – he was “one of the twelve” in a most trusted position.

If you have ever been horrifyingly violated by someone, realize Jesus knows all about it. He went through more than we can even ever imagine and as our great High Priest, He can sympathize with whatever we are going through (Heb. 4:15-16).

Judas leading the pack came with a great multitude. John 18:3 says this involved a “detachment” of Roman troops which may have numbered as many as 600. Also, involved were temple officers sent by the chief priests and Pharisees. Also, according to Luke 22:52 some of the chief priests and elders were there.

It seems they expected that Jesus and His small band of disciples may resist as this great multitude came armed with all manner of swords and clubs. They really did not BELIEVE in Jesus thinking there was safety in numbers and that with this large group surely He could not escape.

What is almost humorous is that Jesus knew exactly what was coming as He clearly foretold His disciples. If He wanted to escape could have easily have given them the slip by choosing another place to go that night.

With a throng this size – with all their lanterns and torches undoubtedly Jesus would have seen them approaching from a distance.

A twenty-minute walk up the Mount of Olives, a couple miles down the opposite slope, and He would have been in the Judean wilderness with a good possibility of escape.

– ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

But that was not God’s plan. This only happened because Jesus allowed it to happen. We see this all the way through.

**48 Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him.”**

Understand it was dark and they didn’t have modern lighting. Although some people knew what Jesus looked like up close and personal, the Roman Soldiers certainly would not have. They needed an “insider” who knew Jesus intimately to clearly identify the right man they wanted to bring in.

Judas, the betrayer had given the sign of the KISS saying, “***Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him.***”

**49 Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed Him.**

There was no hesitation on the part of Judas. A hardened heart is brazen and bold in its sin. The hypocrisy here is thick. He went up to Jesus and said, “Greetings Rabbi” as if he was cordially greeting Him with respect and honor as if submitting to a well-regarded teacher.

It is noted that while Judas called Jesus “Rabbi” he never called Him “Lord” (cf. Matt. 26:22 with 26:25). He formally recognized Jesus as “teacher” but not as “Lord”.

There are no more hollow, hypocritical words in the Bible than “**Greetings, Rabbi!**” in the mouth of Judas. – ***David Guzik***

Two different words for “kiss” are used here. In verse 48 the customary word for a polite kiss is used. However, in verse 49 a more intense word is used (*kataphileo*) which means to kiss fervently, intensely, and “loudly”.

This same word is used in Luke 15:20 when the father kissed the returning prodigal son. It expresses a deep display of emotion (albeit hypocritically in this case). Judas really put on quite a show as he fervently kissed Jesus.

I don't know if you have ever had an experience where someone is really making over you like they really love you and at the same time you know it is really "***the kiss of Judas***". That is awkward, to say the least.

But Jesus handled it with "grace".

### **50 But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?"**

"**Friend**"? How about "Back Stabber", "Low-life Scoundrel", "Depraved Liar", "Hypocritical Deceiver", "Hell-bound wretch", Enemy? I can think of a lot of other seemingly appropriate ways to address Judas, but Jesus called him "**Friend**". How is that for grace? There was no bitterness or words of malice from Jesus – only graciousness to the bitter end.

However, we should note that the term "Friend" while being a polite and civil term is not the strong word (philos) denoting affection. It means "associate" or "companion". This particular word is used only 2 other times in the NT as seen in Matthew 20:13 and 22:12. In both of these other cases it is used in parables – in the last one clearly depicting an unsaved person.

Someone has said that this response from Jesus may have haunted Judas resulting in his regret (albeit not repentance).

It should also be noted that the grammar here allows for this to be understood either as a command or a question. As a command it would be "Do what you have come to do!" This sense would underscore that even in the process of being under arrest the Lord's authority is on display.

If understood as a question as translated here in the NKJV it in effect confronts Judas with the enormity of his deed almost as if in a last effort to jolt him to his senses.

However, Jesus knew that Judas had gone beyond the point of no return and his destiny was hell.

### **Slide # 4**

**Matthew 26:24 (NKJV)**

**24** The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! **It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.**

**John 17:12 (NKJV)**

**12** While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost **except the son of perdition**, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

**Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.**

But somewhere in the mix before they actually seized Jesus, we have what John recorded in John 18.

**Slide # 5**

**John 18:4–8 (NKJV)**

**4** Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, “Whom are you seeking?”

**5** They answered Him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “**I am He**.” And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them.

**6** Now when He said to them, “**I am He**,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

**7** Then He asked them again, “Whom are you seeking?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

**8** Jesus answered, “I have told you that **I am He**. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,”

This is fascinating because Jesus in no uncertain terms made it clear that He was LORD firmly in charge. All the Jews knew that God’s eternal name as revealed in Exodus 3:14-15 is “I AM”. In fact, in John 8 the Jews tried to kill Jesus for claiming to be “I AM” (Jn 8:58-59).

So when Jesus identified Himself as “I AM” and they all went flying backwards to the ground that should have been a major tip that perhaps we are not dealing with a regular human being. Perhaps they got up and said, “Maybe we should have brought more troops!” I mean it’s not every day you see perhaps a thousand people simultaneous going flying on their backside simultaneous at someone’s introduction.

**Footnote:**

When I was first in the ministry many years ago I was preaching through this text. It happened to be Dec. 28/1986 – so that is 37 years ago. It so happened that Kent Zimmerman’s girlfriend had brought him to church that morning. Well, when I got to the verse that spoke of them all falling backward to the ground I literally illustrated it. I went flying backward to the floor. Remember I was still young. Anyway, Kent had no idea what he was getting into and was not impressed. In fact, I think he may have said he wasn’t interested in coming back. But we prayed and I was able to lead him to the Lord – Kent and Karen got married – and all these many years later Kent and Karen are still here with Kent being one of our elders.

All this to say, do not expect me to illustrate this morning. As you get older you have to think smarter, not harder. But it truly was an amazing display of “I AM” power that should have resonated with everyone in the crowd – most certainly with Judas. Judas had been with Jesus on many of those occasions when Jesus claimed to be “I AM”.

But for a hardened heart, no amount of evidence is enough. Steeled depravity is a frightful thing for which at some point there is no remedy.

Clearly, Jesus was LORD and fully in control. This is seen not only in them all falling backward to the ground but also in Jesus telling them what to do. After this display of power, Jesus told them to let the disciples go. Things were happening very fast and somewhere in the moment Peter decided to mount a resistance movement.

He whipped out one of the two trusty swords they had brought with them and sprang into action (cf. Lk. 22:38).

**51 And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.**

Again, this happened very suddenly! Peter could be rash and impetuous. He meant well and in one sense he backed up his resolve to die with Christ if necessary (cf. Mt. 26:33, 35). Indeed, his spirit was willing – even if his flesh would prove to be weak (Mt. 26:41). All four gospels record this detail of Peter’s attempt at intervention (Matt. 26:51; Mk. 14:47; Lk. 22:50; Jn 18:10).

**Slide # 6**

**Luke 22:49 (NKJV)**

**49** When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, **“Lord, shall we strike with the sword?”**

True to form impetuous Peter didn't even wait for an answer. He just went right into action and struck the servant of the high priest cutting off his ear. ***“Can you hear me now?”***

Peter ran way ahead of the Lord!

"Peter had argued with the Word, denied the Word, and disobeyed the Word (when he went to sleep). Now he ran ahead of the Word."  
**-Warren Wiersbe**

Matthew doesn't record which disciple it was but John fills in the pieces telling us it was Peter and the servant of the high priest whose ear he sliced off was named Malchus (Jn. 18:10).

Also, Matthew doesn't record this, but Luke the Physician tells us this:

**Slide # 7****Luke 22:51 (NKJV)**

**51** But Jesus answered and said, “Permit even this.” **And He touched his ear and healed him.**

Now clearly Peter was looking to take off his head but being a bad aim only got the ear. I sort of wish he would have taken off his head. Wouldn't that have been something for Jesus to immediately reattach a head? He could just as easily have done that as instantly healing the ear.

Imagine, what must have been the reaction of this servant of the high priest. I wonder if he got saved somewhere along the line? He had to have known what happened and also those right in close proximity.

But the healing was so instant and so complete that it receives no other attention. Amazingly this act of mutilation was never even brought up by Christ's accusers. I assume the miracle was so complete there was not even so much of a trace of blood remaining. It was a case of ear off and ear on – just that quick.

This is Christ's last recorded miracle and He performed it on one of His enemies who came to apprehend Him. Jesus loved those who hated Him and showed kindness to those who were out to kill Him.

Some of the commentators bring out that it is probably a good thing Jesus intervened otherwise there may have been 4 crosses on Mount Calvary with Peter being on one of them.

But again, we see amazing grace expressed toward the man whose ear was cut off and for Peter as well.

**52 But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword."**

Sometimes pacifists want to claim this verse speaks to every situation. But it does not. There is a specific context here.

This proverbial saying must not be interpreted in an absolute, unqualified sense, as if use of the sword were always wrong...

**- William Hendricksen**

Earlier in the night Christ had told the disciples that possession of two swords was enough (Lk. 22:38). He did not say they didn't need any. There is a place for self-defense (Gen. 14:19; Ex. 22:2; Lk. 22:36; Acts 23). And there is a place for the proper use of capital punishment as seen in Gen. 9:6 and Rom. 13.

When the Roman soldiers inquired of John the Baptist what to do he never told them they must leave the army, but rather to not mistreat people and be happy with their wages (Lk 3:14). Cornelius was a Roman centurion who was a devout man of prayer (Acts 10). Romans 13 says God has given the sword to the state and not the church (Rom. 13:4).

The context here is that Peter was playing the part of a vigilante. To physically take on the government in a self-appointed role in the name of doing the Lord's work is never right. This is not our calling.

The church has never made advances by physical warfare, and every time it has tried, the cause of Christ has been severely harmed. There are no holy wars.

Every war fought in the name of Christ has been utterly unholy, contradicting and undermining everything His Word teaches. The kingdom of God does not advance with fleshly weapons or by fleshly strategy. The battleground is spiritual, and it makes no sense to fight with physical weapons. – **John MacArthur**

### **Slide # 8**

#### **John 18:36 (NKJV)**

**36** Jesus answered, “**My kingdom is not of this world.** If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now **My kingdom is not from here.**”

The kingdom of God will not be achieved by the use of force or violence. The disciples were to “take up their cross” and not their swords. – **Bob Deffinbaugh**

### **Slide # 9**

#### **2 Corinthians 10:4 (NKJV)**

**4** For the **weapons of our warfare** are **not carnal** but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

#### **Ephesians 6:17 (NKJV)**

**17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;**

When Peter moved in the power of the world, he only cut off ears. But when he was filled with the Spirit, using the Word of God, Peter pierced hearts for God’s glory ([Acts 2:37](#)). – **David Guzik**

**53 Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?**

This is an interesting statement from the Lord. Potentially He could do this but not actually because He was sold out to the will of God in which the Scriptures must be fulfilled. But if He was looking for power to resist He wasn’t just going to look to Peter with his sword. Rather He would look to the Father Who could provide Him with more than 12 legions of angels (cf. Ps. 34:7; 91:11).

A full Roman legion numbered 6000 troops. So 12 legions of angels would number 72,000. That should do it!

Recall that back in the OT we read that a single angel killed 185,000 in the Assyrian army in a single night (cf. 2 Chron. 32:21).

### **Slide # 10**

#### **2 Kings 19:35 (NKJV)**

**35** And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians **one hundred and eighty-five thousand**; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead.

Well if you take 72,000 angels how many people can they kill in short order. 72,000 times 185,000 is a large number. If I calculate right it is 1332 with 10 zeros behind it. That is a number so large I can't even begin to fathom it. It makes Peter's sword look infinitesimally small.

Then consider that when Christ comes at His second coming that a single angel will take hold of Satan can cast him into the bottomless pit.

### **Slide # 11**

#### **Revelation 20:1–3 (NKJV)**

**1** Then I saw **an angel** coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

**2** He **laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan**, and bound him for a thousand years;

**3** and he **cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him**, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

At Christ's second coming His angels will assist Him in bringing in the kingdom (Mt. 13:41; 24:31).

Now realize that God has sent forth His angels to minister on behalf of the children of God.

#### **Hebrews 1:14 (NKJV)**

**14** Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Truly we are immortal until our time is done! God is sovereign and He is more than able to take care of us.

So often we are like Peter and impetuously think in terms of what we can do in our puniness instead of focusing on God and His power and what He can do for us. And then the great issue is the will of God!

Sometimes the will of God is to intervene and sometimes He has a purpose in taking us the route of the cross which was the case for Jesus here.

Verse 53 makes it clear that Jesus in submission to the Father's will of His own volition voluntarily went to the cross. No one made Him do it. He submitted to it. In John 10:17-18 Jesus said...

**John 10:17–18 (NKJV)**

**17** “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.

**18** No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

But if Jesus refused to lay down His life then...

**54 How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?”**

Note the word “must” here. In order for the Scriptures to be fulfilled this must be allowed to happen. And it is unthinkable that the Scriptures would not be fulfilled. For the Scriptures to not be fulfilled means that God is not all knowing and He is not all powerful. It means that the Word of God is not necessarily true. It changes everything we know to be true about God.

And by the way Satan is banking on this. He is hoping against hope that in the end he can defy God and that the Scripture which tells of his destiny in the lake of fire will not be fulfilled. I am totally in with God. The Scriptures MUST be fulfilled. The things prophesied MUST happen and they did.

In perfect accord with the prophetic Scriptures Jesus fulfilled every jot and tittle concerning what the prophets said would happen in regard to His first coming. And just as sure what they say about His second coming will also yet be fulfilled to the letter.

A few years ago I was on a tour in Israel. I was sitting with these Jewish guides and one of them said,

"We have been listening to you...and we're just a little concerned for you."

I said, "Why is that?"

"Well, we know you don't like to make mistakes. And you made a big one today, very big."

I said, "What did I do?"

They said, "Well you indicated that the Messiah is the seed of the woman and you gave Genesis 3:15. And I mean, you're just way off." He said, "Messiah is not mentioned in that verse."

I said, "Sure He is. He's the seed of the woman."

"No, He's not." He said, "the Hebrew doesn't say that."

I said, "Have you got a Hebrew Bible?"

He said, "Sure." He went over and got it out of the book case.

Everybody laid around their Hebrew Bibles and we're reading it.

I said, "Okay let me ask a question now." I said, "Who is the seed of the woman?"

They said, "Oh that's the Jewish people."

"The Jewish people? Well then, who's the seed of the serpent?"

They all looked at one another. "We don't want to say."

I said, "Well let me tell you what you believe. You believe the seed of the serpent are all the Gentiles in the world." Well... And so we're laughing a little bit about that. I said, "But you're all wrong. And it's based on Hebrew grammar, not on my opinion."

"What do you mean? We know it real well." One guy told me, "I won the national Bible contest, man. I've got it memorized."

I said, "Well you didn't memorize it too good."

He said, "What do you mean?"

I said, "Well, because it's not plural, it's singular. So exactly which Jew is the seed of the woman?"

He said, "Very good point." He said, "Very good point." [And that ended the discussion] – **David Hocking**

The point is the more diligently you study the Scripture the more you find it is perfectly fulfilled in Jesus with absolute precision at every point concerning every little detail!

God Himself had foreordained the very minutest details of how Jesus would die (Acts 2:23; 4:27-28). – **John MacArthur**

## **Slide # 12**

**Acts 2:23 (NKJV)**

**23** Him, being delivered by the **determined purpose and foreknowledge of God**, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

**Acts 4:27–28 (NKJV)**

**27** “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together

**28** **to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before** to be done.

**55** In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, “Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me.

Not only did Jesus have a word of rebuke for His disciple but He also had a message for the multitudes who had come to take Him.

The Lord not only reprimands His disciple, but He also reproves the crowd which is taking Him. Even in His arrest Jesus is King."

***-Stanley Toussaint***

How is it that they came out under cover of night to take Him as though He were some dangerous criminal – treating Him like He was a terrorist?

He points out to them that He was daily with them teaching in the temple – and yet they did not seize Him. Never had He been more accessible in Jerusalem than those past few days.

This really said more about them than it did about Him. They were the ones operating in an inconsistent, hidden, unethical manner – and not Him. Jesus had nothing to hide, but what about them?

They thought their plot depended on a proper show of force pulled off at just the right time.

Humanly speaking they were afraid of the crowds, but when you bring in the God-factor it was all happening according to God's appointment – an appointment Jesus had with Passover as He would become the Passover Lamb Who takes away the sin of the world (cf. Lk. 12:50).

In fact, this was all happening according to God's divine timetable in perfect accord with the Scriptures.

Amazingly, Jesus then said this to this hostile multitude. It was His last message to the unbelieving multitudes and it should have rung in their ears.

**56 But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.**

All this was happening "that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled". Amazingly, Jesus told them exactly WHY this was happening. Imagine, if they had inquired and listened about which specific Scriptures were being fulfilled.

### **Slide # 13**

**Psalm 41:9 (NKJV)**

**9 Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.**

**Isaiah 53:3 (NKJV)**

**3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.** And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

### **Slide # 14**

**Isaiah 53:7 (NKJV)**

**7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,** And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

**Psalm 118:22 (NKJV)**

**22 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.**

### **Slide # 15**

**Psalm 22:1 (NKJV)**

**1 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?** Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?

**Zechariah 13:7 (NKJV)**

7 “Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, Against the Man who is My Companion,” Says the LORD of hosts. **“Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered;** Then I will turn My hand against the little ones.

Everything that was happening was according to prophecy given hundreds of years in advance. The prophetic Scriptures concerning the Christ had to be fulfilled and they were fulfilled perfectly in Jesus of Nazareth showing that indeed He is the Messiah prophesied in the OT.

As Paul says in 1 Cor. 15 the gospel is according to the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

And then in fulfillment of prophecy, the text says, “Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.” It was every man for Himself – just as the Scriptures foretold in Zech. 13:7 and just as Jesus had predicted earlier in the night as seen in Matthew 26:31.

From here on the loneliness of the cross began to set in as Jesus goes to the cross and dies on the cross all alone! What is hell? Hell is among other things loneliness. Jesus took our hell. Hell is miserable torment and loneliness!

In terms of application this text has much to teach us by way of Christ’s way versus Peter’s way. Peter at this juncture decide to take matters in to His own hands. He was going to take the bull by the horns and make something happen.

On the other hand, Christ is the perfect example of humble submission to the Father’s will – and doing it God’s way. Christ is our perfect example and Peter learned this lesson well.

**Slide # 16****1 Peter 2:21–23 (NKJV)**

21 For to this you were **called**, because **Christ** also suffered for us, leaving us an **example**, that **you should follow His steps**:

22 “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”;

23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; **when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;**

There are many situations in life where we will have to decide: Am I going to try and handle this in the flesh or am I going to humble down and go the way of the cross that submits to God? God's way is always the BEST way in the long run.

Thirty years ago a cult leader by the name of David Koresh decided to take on the government in his well-fortified compound. What ensued was the "largest gunfight on American soil since the Civil War". At the end of the 51-day standoff, David Koresh and 75 of his followers were dead. One of the cult's survivors said, "David was our Christ". Well, he was a FALSE CHRIST and those who followed him perished.

True believers follow the true Christ Who said, "***all who take the sword will perish by the sword.***" Indeed, many of Christ's followers die as faithful martyrs but as we die in the will of God we have this promise.

### **Slide # 17**

#### **Romans 8:36–39 (NKJV)**

**36** As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

**37** **Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors** through Him who loved us.

**38** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

**39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Peter said this to the suffering saints...

### **Slide # 18**

#### **1 Peter 4:19 (NKJV)**

**19** Therefore **let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.**

There is such a thing as suffering according to the will of God. To try and handle it in the flesh is senseless. Peter learned his lesson. God's people need to commit their souls to God in doing right because He is a faithful Creator. For us it's not only about time but more importantly ETERNITY!

God help us to follow the example of Christ Who committed Himself to Him Who judges righteously. We can trust Him. He is a faithful Creator!