

[Things Blasphemously Spake] / Gospel of Luke 22:35 – 62

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God has slowed down tremendously as we enter the last section of Luke. Quite frankly, I hope you have learned as much as I have in our study of this Gospel account. The life of Jesus does not save us, friends, nor does the ministry or teaching of Jesus. No, only accepting His death, burial and resurrection as our Savior and Lord and by trusting Him can anyone ever be saved. It's no accident we find ourselves standing in the shadow of the cross as we begin to approach the end of Luke's record in this report. We see Jesus reminding the apostles that when He had sent them out to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, they had miraculously been provided for. At this time, Jesus tells them He is sending them on an entirely new mission with an entirely new message – and they're going to an entirely new audience: The Gentile world. From here forward, we see the apostles go out beyond the lost sheep of the house of Israel; and they're going to the entire world. Unfortunately, the world just happens to be a very bad place. The world may have some physical beauty – but anywhere we find mankind, we find disaster, failure and a creature who is as vile as he can possibly be! ~

35 And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.

36 Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.

~ If you have a purse, take your money out of it and use it to share the entire Word of God with the entire world. The rich young ruler refused to follow Jesus because of this very issue, you may recall. Quite frankly, this is exactly where most people part ways with Jesus. That is the message Jesus is teaching the apostles - and you and me, too - and it also implies that if we don't have a purse or any money, then we are still to go share the Gospel and depend on the Lord for provision. In that case, there will be suffering. Friends, that's just not easy to accept, either. It's easy to share the Gospel when you aren't hungry or worried about where you are going to live next

week. It's altogether another thing to continue to teach consistently and continue in a systematic teaching program when our own basic human needs are only being met on an as-needed basis.

Regarding the "sword" – I believe we can always spiritualize the sword in Scripture as the Word of God and as the direct message of God Himself. Interestingly, and I almost digress, the state I live in has very tight gun laws. If you try to rob me on the streets, you will likely die trying. If you break into my home - you will not leave alive. I'm not concerned with what the "law" made by corrupt mankind legislates regarding my privacy and safety. Everyone knows the criminals all have guns, and laws against owning guns only mean that law abiding citizens are in danger. Guns are here to stay, my beloved. That's a bit of an awkward situation for us law abiding people. I think some people actually enjoy creating conundrums in society. Let's not get hung up on how we are to obey man's law's – because I do obey them – to the letter. We need to recognize the days and conditions of this society in which we live and not be reckless and foolish about our well-being. No one can make a case from the Bible that we are to just allow our own victimization. This is not the Millennium, and we resist evil today, friends – don't write me back trying me with this nonsense about turn the other cheek and all that. If you don't resist evil today, then leave your home, car and business unlocked tonight and take a foolish chance tempting the Lord watching over you....

37 For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end.

38 And they said, Lord, behold, here are two swords. And he said unto them, It is enough.

39 And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the Mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.

40 And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

~ Well, let's pray that we enter not into temptation as we very definitely enter into the Garden of Gethsemane with Jesus and the disciples again in our Spiritual Safari. We've been here before in the Bible. I think we all need to remind ourselves that the Scriptural portion of this section of the Gospel is absolutely Holy Ground. We need to bow to the Lord Jesus Christ now in spirit and pray for wisdom, judgment and spiritual discernment as we gaze upon a fleeting glimpse of Holy Rapture; because Satan is the one that Jesus is warning us not to enter into the temptation thereof.

There is a hymn sang so dreadfully glibly that proclaims, "... I'll go with Him through the Garden" – well, friends, I can't sing that hymn! I can't go with Him through the garden; I will join the apostles in a little sleep through here if that's okay with you. Maybe you think you can go with Jesus through this place. If so, go ahead. I don't think you can. I don't think that anyone who says they'll go through the garden with Jesus even knows what they are talking about. Anyone that understands what is going on here would never sing that song. I see it as a form of blasphemy, personally. These people always make excuses to drop out of Bible study if an afternoon rainstorm comes along, too, by the way. It doesn't take much to keep these pious people from sincere worship, prayer or Bible study. If you can hear the cry of Christ and if you feel you can enter into that suffering with Him then – quite frankly, I just do not believe your testimony on any level; irrespective of your words. You do not have the meaning, and I certainly do not have the meaning; this, actually, is about as far as we can go.

The Lord left the disciples behind when He went to pray in Gethsemane; and He leaves me and you behind, also. We can hear the travail of His soul and that's enough for me. If you want to go further and try to see Him over the wall down in the darkness, feel free. If our hearts are sensible, then we will simply thank God for providing the One who pressed the cup of our sins, sorrows, sufferings and trespasses to His Holy lips and drank the very dregs of them while simultaneously taking our place upon the cross and in death! If you deign believe you can penetrate any further into that void of understanding and grasp the significance any fuller than this then, by all means, grab your pencil and get back to me regarding all the things that actually took place. I don't claim to have all the answers, friends. There is no ambiguity or obscurity in this garden scene; but there is a whole lot of

mystery. We will do well to simply worship at this point. We love God because we know Him, but we adore Christ because we cannot comprehend Him!

I think it is significant to note this happened 'as He was wont' and that 'He came to the place.' We saw the so-called Triumphal Entry where the city rejected Him, and He rejected Jerusalem. Well, I think the disciples may have spent a lot of time in this garden. Soon, the Lord's supper is instituted, and they go out to this place for the last time. On this night something supernatural happened, and Jesus wrestled with an unseen enemy. The victory of Calvary was, in fact, won here in the Garden of Gethsemane. I truly believe that. I also believe Jesus sweating droplets of blood has something to do with His shedding of His blood; and this night may account for one of the days Jesus spent in the grave. I cannot make a Scripturally sound case for either of those statements - but I still believe they are true. The first temptation Satan offered Jesus was the kingdoms of the world. Of course, that would mean there would be no cross. Then, Luke told us that Satan left Jesus for a season. I think the devil came back to test Jesus many times after that wilderness experience. The temptations from Satan began the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ and the temptations of the devil are right here at the end of His earthly ministry. Satan's theology has no place for the cross of Christ. Remember, Simon Peter said to the Lord that he wouldn't let Jesus go to the cross – and Jesus called Simon Peter Satan! I don't think Peter felt too great about Himself after that....

41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

~ There is quite a bit of discussion about this cup. Some believe Jesus was afraid that He would die before He made it to the cross. Well, I don't think so! The Roman cross, in and of itself, has no merit whatsoever. The only merit is in the One Who died for our sins. If Christ had died in the Garden of Gethsemane or somewhere else, it would still have been Christ Who died for us. Our term of preaching the cross is only such because that's where

the blood was shed. If the blood had been shed in the Garden of Gethsemane, and I believe it had - because the Bible says it was - then we would preach the garden. We should all really think about that very carefully.

My personal feeling is that the cup is the cross! I'm not talking about the suffering of death; I'm saying He was made sin for us and He is the Holy One of God. When my sins and your sins were cast upon Him it was repulsive. I have no idea why so many people think they are so attractive to God these days. Our sins put on Christ were vile and this fleeting moment is a rebellion against that. It is here in the darkness of this garden that the shadowy figure of the tempter came along to offer the crown without the cross one final time. We can only bow in reverence of our assurance that Christ committed Himself to and executed the Father's will as we see the angelic ministry that was present in the wilderness desert also present here in the garden; and Luke is the only one who records this, by the way....

43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

~ Here we have agonizing in prayer that results in great drops of blood. I have prayed in agony, but I have never sweated blood while doing so. Our doctor is describing a tremendous physical reaction of agony and conflict. Here is another Biblical fact that I simply cannot explain. The biological and doctoral explanations for this are unimpressive to me. I realize there are some wonderful Christian doctors that can lay out a comprehensive explanation; I am still not convinced nor am I impressed in the slightest way. Christ shed His blood for me – and you – and for that we should bow in reverence and worship.

*None of the ransomed ever knew ~
~ How deep were the waters crossed
Nor how dark the night the Lord passed through
~ When He found His sheep that was lost*

One of the most glaring tragedies of the present moment for mankind is seen about us everywhere and every day in our wars. Well, there's a much worse tragedy than that, and it is that Christ's heart was broken because of our lost condition. Christ died for our eternal liberty saying He had come that we might have life and that we might have it more abundantly. Christ loved the world, and He went as far as is possible to go for another man. Yet, the world spurns the Holy Name of God - the One Who is their only Hope. The Savior Who was made sin for us is rejected. The only reason they reject Him is because there is sin their lives that they refuse to give up. What fools they really are! How about you, friends? Do you reject Him, too? How truly grateful for your salvation are you? ~

45 And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow,

46 And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.

47 And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him.

48 But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

49 When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword?

50 And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear.

51 And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.

52 Then Jesus said unto the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and the elders, which were come to him, Be ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and staves?

53 When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

54 Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.

~ Light and dark meet at the cross; and the darkness comprehended it not. We see Peter following afar off now and that's a dangerous place to be. The further we get from the Light of the Lord Jesus Christ the darker things will become. Simon Peter is going to resort to outright lying now in this dastardly deed of denying Christ. Unfortunately, for Simon Peter, the way he talks and says things give him away as a Galilaeen. This could have been the end of Simon Peter, too. This could have the same conclusion as Judas Iscariot's story did very easily. Thank God that's not what happened. Peter will come back to the Lord after this denial - but not until Peter wept bitterly. That happens to be the bitter weeping of repentance for this man....

55 And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.

56 But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him.

57 And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not.

58 And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not.

59 And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaeen.

60 And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew.

61 And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

62 And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

63 And the men that held Jesus mocked him, and smote him.

64 And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him, saying, Prophecy, who is it that smote thee?

65 And many other things blasphemously spake they against him.

66 And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the scribes came together, and led him into their council, saying,

67 Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe:

68 And if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go.

69 Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.

70 Then said they all, Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am.

71 And they said, What need we any further witness? for we ourselves have heard of his own mouth.

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