

# *Walking With Jesus The Last Mile of the Way*

## Introduction:

1. Jesus was despised and rejected by man.
2. He is the “Man of Sorrow” and was oppressed and afflicted.
3. **Isaiah 53:3-8** was a literal fulfillment in His life.
4. The “last mile of the way” is a powerful study, so I want spend the next few moments walking with Jesus the last mile of the way.

## Discussion:

[You see when I am walking with Jesus the last mile of the way.... I find myself in....]

### **I. The Upper Room**

- A. The final night of Jesus’ life has fallen.
- B. This is Thursday night of what we call the “PASSION” week
- C. He chooses to gather His closest disciples for one final meal.
  1. They have no idea what is in store....nor that it is the last meal they will have with the Savior.
  2. All they know is that Jesus is troubled.
- D. Three things happen in that upper room....
  1. The Son of Perdition is revealed – During the Lord’s Supper Jesus would make it clear who His betrayer would be (Judas).
  2. The Passover is observed - They are in the upper room taking the LS.
  3. The Promise of Peter is given – Peter promises to die for Christ, but we’ll see.
- E. After taking the Last Supper and singing a hymn together they begin walking.....

[So we do too... when we are walking with Jesus the last mile of the way.... We end up in....]

### **II. The Garden of Gethsemane**

- A. Details are revealed about this walk across the Kidron Valley.
  1. This is the valley that flowed from the East out of the city of Jerusalem.
  2. The water would run so swift and so thick that it would fill the streets of the cities below the mountain.
  3. On this night, being the Passover night, it would have been filled with the blood of sacrificial lambs killed during the feasts.
  4. This tells us that as Jesus, our Passover Lamb, crossed through the Garden, the blood of bulls and goats and sheep would have splashed his robes and covered his feet....as he makes his way into the garden....
- B. The garden reveals a gripping scene.
  1. When? - The time is described as simply night.... But he prayed until early.
    - a. **Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 13:32-42, Luke 22:39-46, John 18:1-2**
    - b. This was something Jesus did often, but rarely did He take the disciples along with him.
  2. Where? - The Place
    - a. The location is the Mount of Olives.
    - b. About ½ mile outside of the city... far enough away to be removed from the crowds and the late night parties.

3. Whom? - The Companions
    - a. Eleven of the disciples are with Him.
    - b. Peter, James and John went a little further
    - c. He had sympathy for them, but they slept. – Why?
    - d. Maybe disappointment of earthly kingdom, Indifference, Frustration, Physical and Emotional Exhaustion.
    - e. But I am confident that for the rest of their lives they wondered what might happen if they had stayed awake on this night.
- C. Consider what Jesus is doing.....
1. What was the Lord doing? - Praying - The Distress
    - a. Notice the Lord's physical and emotional distress
    - b. Notice the various positions He assumed during this prayer (knelt, fell on ground, and fell on His face).
    - c. This may be the process of the prayer.
    - d. Notice the words that describe Him (being in agony, deeply distressed, exceedingly sorrowful, began to be troubled).
  2. What was He feeling? - The Trauma
    - a. His sweat was like drops of blood.
    - b. This can happen in times of distress
  3. The Prayer (Cried, talked like a child, etc.)
    - a. "Father, let this cup pass from me." – What was the cup?  
(1) Cup = Death? Fear? Dread of bearing sin? Separation?
    - b. "Abba, Father" – If there were ever a tear shed in heaven . . . .
    - c. Jesus was strengthened by an angel of God.
  4. What can we learn from the garden? - The Application
    - a. In times of trial we must not practice isolation.  
(1) We need our brethren and they also need us.  
(2) **Galatians 6:2, Hebrews 13:3**, weep = weep
    - b. In times of trial we must pray and be aware, alert, and faithful.  
(1) Lord, fortify us for trials.  
(2) It can give us courage.  
(3) Think about Nehemiah, Daniel, Paul & Silas.
    - c. In times of trial we must learn from Jesus' prayers.  
(1) Our Lord prayed submissively.  
(2) Our Lord prayed importunately.  
(3) Our Lord prayed earnestly. – Hebrews 5:7  
(4) Our Lord prayed relationally.  
(5) Our Lord prayed specifically.  
(6) Our Lord prayed unpretentiously.
    - d. In times of trial we must not get despair if our prayers are not answered in the affirmative.  
(1) The cup was not taken from Him. – **Hebrews 5:7**  
(2) Don't think that God does not care.

- e. In times of trial we must adopt “He went a little further” mindset.
  - (1) He went a little farther in being non-retaliatory.
  - (2) He went a little farther in being forgiving.
  - (3) He went a little farther in His prayer life. – **Luke 8:1**
  - (4) He went a little farther in His love for others.
  - (5) He went a little farther in His work.
  - (6) He went a little farther in His sacrificial living.
- f. In times of trial we must notice our enemies.
  - (1) The enemies were plotting while the disciples were sleeping.
  - (2) The parable of the tares. – **Matthew 13**

[When we are walking with Jesus the last mile of the way.... We can't help but see....]

### III. The Betrayal & Arrest of Jesus

- A. By whom was He betrayed? - Judas
  - 1. **Matthew 26:47-56, Mark 14:43-52, Luke 22:47-53, John 18:1-11**
  - 2. **Psalm 149** – The traitor was the treasurer - Judas
  - 3. He kissed him tenderly and much.
- B. What was his motive? - Covetousness
  - 1. Was it a response to his disappointment with no earthly kingdom?
  - 2. Was it a reaction to his rebuke? - No
- C. What was the price of betrayal? - 30 pieces of silver
  - 1. The sum for a slave - 30 pieces of silver
  - 2. The money was used to purchase the potter's field.
- D. What about the arrest of Jesus?
  - 1. Friday before dawn Jesus was arrested.
  - 2. It was a band of officers, chief priests, and elders (All took place at night).
  - 3. They came with clubs and swords.
  - 4. Peter's sword – for the Passover lamb?
- E. What can we learn from the betrayal?
  - 1. We abhor the specific sins that led to this event
    - a. Judas - Greed
    - b. Sanhedrin - Envy
    - c. Pilate – Cowardice
  - 2. What price would I sell the Lord?
    - a. A drink at the bar
    - b. A night of revelry
    - c. A little ill gotten gain
    - d. A popular position
  - 3. Observing Jesus' Treatment = Sins Treatment of Us
    - a. They Bound Christ – Sin Binds (Alcohol, Nicotine, Drugs)
    - b. Shamefully Treated Him – Sin Disgraces (Nation, Family, Commun.)
    - c. They Physically Mistreated Him – Sin Destroys Body (Diseases)
    - d. They Misrepresented Him – Sin Deceives (Liberty, Happy, Life)
    - e. They Killed Him – Sin Brings Death (Literally, Gradually, Eternally)
- F. Who did Peter strike? - Malchus (Ear- Consider all of the passages)



2. Notice the affirmations of Pilate:
  - a. Behold, the man – **John 19:5**
  - b. Behold, your king
3. Remember Pilate had him scourged – **John 19:1**
  - a. Required before crucifixion – some died
  - b. Stripped of clothing, tied to post, stretched skin
  - c. Leather strip braided with bones, rocks, etc.

[When we are walking with Jesus the last mile of the way.... We can see inside and outside of the courtroom. We end up walking into ....]

#### **V. The Denial of Jesus by Peter**

- A. Why did he betray Jesus? – Overconfidence
  1. Overconfidence will be our downfall.
  2. Progressive nature of sin (Desertion of Jesus, Fraternized with the enemy, lied, perjury, curse and swear).
  3. God is the God of the second chance (The land of beginning again)
- B. How did his speech betray Him?
  1. Geographically as well as spiritually.
  2. We don't lie, curse, gossip, jest, fault finding, angry words, etc.
- C. What did Peter do? – Wept bitterly.

[When we are walking with Jesus the last mile of the way.... We walk into the graphic crucifixion scene of Jesus....]

#### **VI. The Death of Jesus**

- A. I can honestly say, I think about this final scene in Jesus' life almost every day and on most days.... Several times a day.
- B. I wonder what it would have been like to be a witness to this scene.
- C. The gospel writers speak about how the woman followed him to the cross, how there was a centurion standing nearby that declared the deity of Jesus.... They describe how they mocked Jesus and misunderstood his words. The sky turned black. The ground shook. The veil was torn.
- D. Even as he began to quote **Psalm 22** he was unable to finish the psalm and HE humbly forgave those who beat him and accused him and promised paradise to one of the criminals who died next to him.
- E. Instead of me relaying to you ALL the events here... let me read them to you from one of the eyewitnesses (**John 17:16-27**).
- F. This walk is exhausting isn't it? Because he did this for you and me!

[Jesus may have died and was buried.... But the story isn't over is it? JESUS WILL WALK AGAIN! When we are walking with Jesus the last mile of the way.... We don't stop at Calvary! We walk through every page of Scripture and into the work of Jesus & His church]

#### **VII. The Resurrection & Work of Jesus**

- A. Jesus is alive. He rose just as He said He would.
- B. Then He challenged His disciples to take the good news into the whole world.
- C. He promised them the baptism of the Holy Spirit and promised to build His church.
- D. As you continue to read from Acts to Revelation you see His name on every page.... His work is seen in every story.... AND we know He has taken His rightful seat on the throne as the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and the Head of His Church!

- E. Remember the last words of Jesus in Matthew.... I will ALWAYS be with you!
- F. JESUS IS STILL WITH US!
- G. He still wants to walk with us.
  - \* He will walk with us at TITUS Camp.
  - \* He will walk with us Sunday morning as we present our lessons.
  - \* He will walk with us when we travel back home.
  - \* He will walk with us in our youth group and with our church family.
  - \* He will walk with us in our schools.
  - \* He will walk with us in our relationships.
  - \* He will walk with us in our family and with our friends.
  - \* He will walk with us in the difficult hours when we feel alone.
  - \* He will walk with us in the good times and in our best moments.
  - \* He will walk with us on our worst day and when we have sinned.
  - \* He will walk with us EVERYWHERE we go!
- H. He has promised never to leave you or forsake you.
- I. He has promised to be with you even until the end of the age.
- J. If he is for us, who can be against us?
- K. He has promised to give us strength.
- L. And, he knows our walk is going to be hard.... So notice His promise to us **(Matthew 11:28-30)**.

Conclusion:

1. It's hard walking with Jesus the last mile of the way.
2. His last mile was the hardest. AND YOUR last mile is the hardest.
3. Many of you have already taken the step to follow Jesus.
4. You know that was hard, but rest of your life is a journey.
5. I hope it's a long journey with many blessings, but the truth is IT is going to be hard! People will give up on you. Friends will turn their backs.
6. But my prayer is that you will cement your relationship with Jesus and NEVER EVER stop walking.
7. Don't bury your head in the sand. Don't compromise what you know is right.
8. Don't let Satan get the best of you. Just keep walking. Jesus will be right there with you.... EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!
9. Every head bowed, every eye closed . . . . .