

Introduction:

- We started last chapter 26 last Wednesday.

I. Hope for Deserters

- A. Jesus quotes Zacharia 13:7
 1. God will strike the Shepherd. It is His shepherd, his 'associate'...Jesus. Much like Abraham symbolically took Isaac to be sacrificed. God now takes His Son, His shepherd of His people.
 2. The paradox is that Messiah is killed by the plan of God.
 3. The sheep are the people of God.
- B. The Hope for the Sheep
 1. "The three passion predictions of 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:18-19 all concluded with a bold statement that he would "be raised on the third day"
 2. but now the picture is filled out a little. His resurrection will be the preface to a reunion with his disciples." France, R. T. (2007). NICNT Mt. (p. 999). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.
 3. Jesus prophesies to them: I will go ahead of you to Galilee and I will meet you there. He is telling them their future. And the disciples will be encouraged to be back in Galilee where it all began.
- C. Peters Declaration: *"Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you!"*
 1. Peters boast of loyalty sets him up for a more spectacular fall. Those who boast of their fire will almost always be found humbled so that they can boast of His grace and mercy.
 2. Everyone agrees with Peter that they too will not be scattered.
 3. Yet these are the very ones that Jesus takes to the Garden to pray with Him.

II. Strengthened by Prayer

- A. Jesus prayed the disciples slept.
 1. Mt 26:36-46 is the last scene that we see Jesus together with His disciples until after the resurrection.
 2. There are two focuses
 - a) Jesus prayer life. Disciplined in the place of prayer. It was His life line!
 - b) The disciples weakness in prayer. Right when Jesus needs them most they sleep.
- B. Jesus received grace, the disciples were passed by.
 1. Matthew reveals the great struggle that Jesus endure in the garden to accept the will of God. It is really the first time that we see him so vulnerable. At no other place do we the emotions of Jesus made so visible.
 2. Jesus is led by the Father to the place where He knows there is no plan B.
 3. Only in seeing this struggle do we grasp the profound trust between Jesus and the Father.

4. *"...Yes, by God's grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone."* (Hebrews 2:9, NLT)
 5. The disciples did not find grace because they slept through prayer.
 - a) *"Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!"* (Matthew 26:41, NLT) Their prayer is not for Him but for themselves.
 - b) *"And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one."* (Matthew 6:13, NLT)
 - c) In prayer we keep watch and this leads us to victory over temptation.
- C. Prayer restores Jesus sense of purpose and the disciple lack of it reinforces their abandonment of their Savior.
1. Jesus has three sessions of prayer. (39, 42, 44) Look at this in light of Peters three denials of Jesus 69-75. Matthew is deliberate in the way he presents his account.
 2. Jesus ends in the place of "Let your will be done!"
- D. Betrayed
1. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.
 2. Look my betrayer is here!
- III. **The Climax Begins**
- A. The disciples now 'exit stage right' and the sinner take the lead in the rest of this section through 27:26
1. It is not that Jesus cannot resist but that He will not for He has accepted the Father's will.
 2. Even though Jesus does not seek to escape it is still clear that He is in charge.
 3. The betrayal introduces to new sections: Time before the Jewish authorities and the Roman prefect.
 4. Jesus continues to declare, You do not take my life I give it to you. You do not need your swords and clubs. He lives to fulfill the scriptures!
- B. Help is refused
1. Peter is rebuked for resisting. We know it is him because of John.
 2. Angels are not called upon. vs 53
 3. I will go with you as it is written.
- C. Jesus' death is sealed before the council. Pilate only has to finish what they have started.
1. Vs 64 Matthew continues to declare to his readers that Jesus is the Son of Man and who coming on the clouds of heaven.
 2. Jesus once again as Messiah and Son of Man exerts His authority.
 3. vs 66 Jesus declared guilty.
 4. "the Messiah whose "prophetic" abilities they are mocking has in fact predicted the very rejection and condemnation that he is now undergoing (16:21; 20:19). France, R. T. (2007). (p. 1030). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.