

Lesson Twenty-Six—Matthew 26:47–27:10

Follow Me—I Must Go to the Cross Alone

Introduction

No one could follow Jesus to the cross. No one could stand before the high priest and make the good confession for Jesus. He had to make it for himself. Jesus alone won our salvation, and when the disciples looked back at that event, there was no doubt in their minds on that score.

They betrayed him, misunderstood him, fled from him, and disowned him. One writer said that Matthew's account of the crucifixion was Matthew's confession of the sinful way he acted during the hours of Jesus' passion. Certainly Matthew speaks for all of us. Today we witness our Savior suffering and dying for our sins, even our sins of denial.

26:47-56 *Jesus is arrested*

What a vision of the sinfulness of the human race!

Verses 48-50 What was going on in Judas' mind when he approached Jesus in the garden?

Verses 50-54 What was going on in the mind of the disciple who took out his sword and tried to defend Jesus?

Verses 47,55 What was going on in the minds of those who arrested Jesus? Consider the time of the arrest, the size of the crowd, and their weaponry.

Verses 52,53,55 What place did the sword and other forms of violence or force have in Jesus' plan?

Verses 54,56 What was going on in Jesus' mind as he faced the crowd? (Compare this with Jesus' attitude as he prayed in Gethsemane.)

Verse 56 What was the disciples' response to Jesus' three years of love, compassion, teaching, miracles, and unswerving dedication to preparing them to be his witnesses?

26:57-68 *Jesus confesses the truth before the Sanhedrin*

Justice was perverted at this trial. What was the response to the many who told lies at the trial? What happened to the only one who told the truth?

Read Daniel 7:13,14. What confession did Jesus make before the Sanhedrin?

What was the religious leaders' response to Jesus' confession?

26:69-75 Peter disowns his Lord

Why do you think Matthew puts this account in his book?

Sometimes apostles like Peter and Paul are called heroes of faith. Do you think they would have wanted to be referred to like that?

27:1-10 Judas hangs himself

Compare Judas' reaction to his sin with Peter's reaction to his own sin. How did the remorse that each felt differ? What was the result of each kind of remorse?

Testimonies that Jesus is the true Messiah

The disciples did not give any testimonies to their Savior, nor did they try to defend him and explain who he was. Yet the Lord himself saw to it that there were ample testimonies to Jesus' person and work.

Jesus fulfilled prophecy. What prophecies did Jesus fulfill?

In the next lesson we will see Jesus' enemies and even creation bear witness to what was happening in the last hours of Jesus' life.

How does Jesus' work during these hours help us understand the nature of the kingdom?

Summary

Jesus continues on the road to the cross. It is a road he must travel alone. Only the Son of God can go to battle with Satan and take away his power. Only by suffering for our sins could Jesus win the victory over Satan and establish the kingdom of God.

The disciples deserted Jesus. This caused them shame in later years. Yet it gave them all the more reason to rejoice in God's grace for them, and it made them humble and patient as they worked with fellow sinners.

For next time

Use The People's Bible commentary on Matthew to review this section. Read through Matthew 27:11-56 several times