

CB - 2/19/67 pm.

THE STORY OF THE CROSS - PART I
THE GLORY OF THE SAVIOUR

John 18:1-14

Intro: With chapter 18, John begins to tell the story of the Cross.

How pleased we would be if we were reading this account for the first time! Every verse seems to contain some amazing disclosures. IT WILL BE TREMENDOUSLY PROFITABLE FOR EVERY BELIEVER TO SPEND TIME THINKING ABOUT THESE EVENTS. AND NO PART OF THE BIBLE IS MORE IMPORTANT FOR THE NON-CHRISTIAN THAN THAT WHICH SPEAKS OF THE SUFFERING, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

John completely omits the praying of our Lord in Gethsemane. Instead, at ch. 18 begins we find Him leaving Jerusalem and crossing over the historically famous Kidron (lit, winter torrent, since in summer it was a dry bed) and entering into Gethsemane.

The first truth which confronts us is

I. The indescribable DEPRAVITY OF THE HUMAN HEART - as seen in Judas.

His wicked heart had been perfectly concealed until John 13:18 ff when our Lord was together with His disciples in the upper room.

Then the secret was out!

Jesus said at that time, "I know whom I have chosen" (Jn. 13:18).

What a warning for us! Think of the privileges that Judas enjoyed, but

the privileges had not changed his heart.

He had been a constant follower of the Lord Jesus

- hearing Him teach

- seeing His miracles

- receiving private instruction with

the twelve

- he himself had preached

- AND THERE IS NOTHING TO KEEP US FROM

BEING BELIEVING THAT JUDAS HAD EVEN PER-

FORMED MIRACLES

So this why the Lord said what He

did in Luke 10:17, 20 (This was to

the 70") Cf also Mt 7:21-23.

THESE THINGS DO NOT PROVE THAT ONE

IS A CHILD OF GOD - and Judas is our

best illustration.

HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD'S WAYS

PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR HIS GREATEST

SIN: (Read Jn 14:2)

This is when he kissed the Lord.

But in v. 5 he "stood with them."

Appl. May we remember that external

privileges, knowledge of the scriptures,

church attendance, never ceasing

and preaching the Word of God do not

necessarily mean a person is a

child of God.

Ill. The Sunday comment that

Billy had won 1,000,000 souls

to Christ.

II. THE IMMATURETY OF BELIEVER - Peter.

How like all of us!

Can we not see in Peter that when we act in haste, we are prone to do the wrong thing?

How quickly boldness would turn to fear? Why?

He was not acting on the basis of what the Lord had been teaching him? From the very first Peter had been ~~exposed~~ ^{exposed} to this teaching. He even writes about it in his first epistle.

Was it not with some amazement that our Lord asked the question in v. 11?

Peter was actually endangering the life of all the disciples by his impetuous action where ~~he~~ he seems completely oblivious to the consequences of ~~his action~~ what he was doing.

Let us not fail to see ourselves in Peter.

But how refreshing to see

III. THE GLORY AND MAJESTY OF OUR LORD.

Whenever you see the Lord Jesus, He stands out in marked contrast with all who are about Him.

note first of all -

A. The evidence of omniscience (Jn. 13:4).

John makes quite a point of this. Cf. Jn. 13:1, 18a, 14:25, 29, etc.

How different was the behavior of our Lord from that which the soldiers got from other prisoners! They had

their "swords and spears and
weapons" so He could not escape,
but He knew they were coming,
that His hour was come, and He
walked right into their hands!

BUT LEADS TO A SECOND POINT.

B. The evidence of DEITY.

For the past several weeks we have
been considering together the I am's
of the Gospel of John.

Amazingly we come to it again
here.

(Read IV. 4-6: not "I am he," but
simply, "I AM" - *ἐγώ εἰμι*.)

Think of these hard, cruel men
- FALING BACKWARDS, TO THE
GROUND!

What was this but a tremendous
manifestation of DEITY.

They could not have touched Him
apart from His willingness to be
delivered into their hands.

But there is more:

C. The evidence of LOVE - in two directions.

1. For His own (14:8,9). Cf. 13:1;
17:12.

One of the miracles of this
account is that the whole band
of disciples was not apprehended -
especially after what Peter did!

But the bare of divine protection

were up. THE SOLDIERS COULD GO SO FAR - AND NO FARTHER. PETER'S EXPERIENCE IN THE FOLLOWING VERSES PROVES THIS. (Comment on this as an illustration of ~~John~~ 1 Cor. 10:13).

2. For Malchus. John is the only Gospel writer who names him.

Cf. 14:10.

Peter was intent on killing him. Probably Malchus was the leader. Our Lord healed him (Luke 22:51).

Cf. our Lord's compassion on the cross (Luke 23:34, "Father, forgive..."). Also, 1 Cor. 2:8, "which none of the princes of this world knew."

D. The evidence of SUBMISSION TO THE FATHER'S WILL. Cf. Jn. 18:11-14.

And the hard part of the whole experience was that HIS SUBMISSION TO THE FATHER WAS DEMONSTRATED BY SUBMISSION TO MEN.

and what men they were! Annas and Caiaphas. Cf. Edersheim, II, 547. Jewish history tells us:

- (1) Annas ruled from behind the scenes; Caiaphas was a puppet.
- (2) Annas & his family were getting immense revenues from the temple.
- (3) He was a Sadducee with no scruples for truth - only for the expedient thing!
- (4) The priests were hated (their names were whispered oaths) by the people.

All was riddled with corruption
and sin. Nothing has ever been
more unjust than the treatment
received by Jesus Christ and the
men through whom He received it!

Are you having trouble with the
channels through whom trouble comes
to you in the process of doing the will
of God?

Then look at the Saviour's experience.

HE UNDERSTANDS PERFECTLY!

CONCL: What tremendous preparation

this is for all that follows!

What a different conception of the work
of Christ! He was not a helpless martyr.
Even in death He was triumphantly and
majestically GOD.